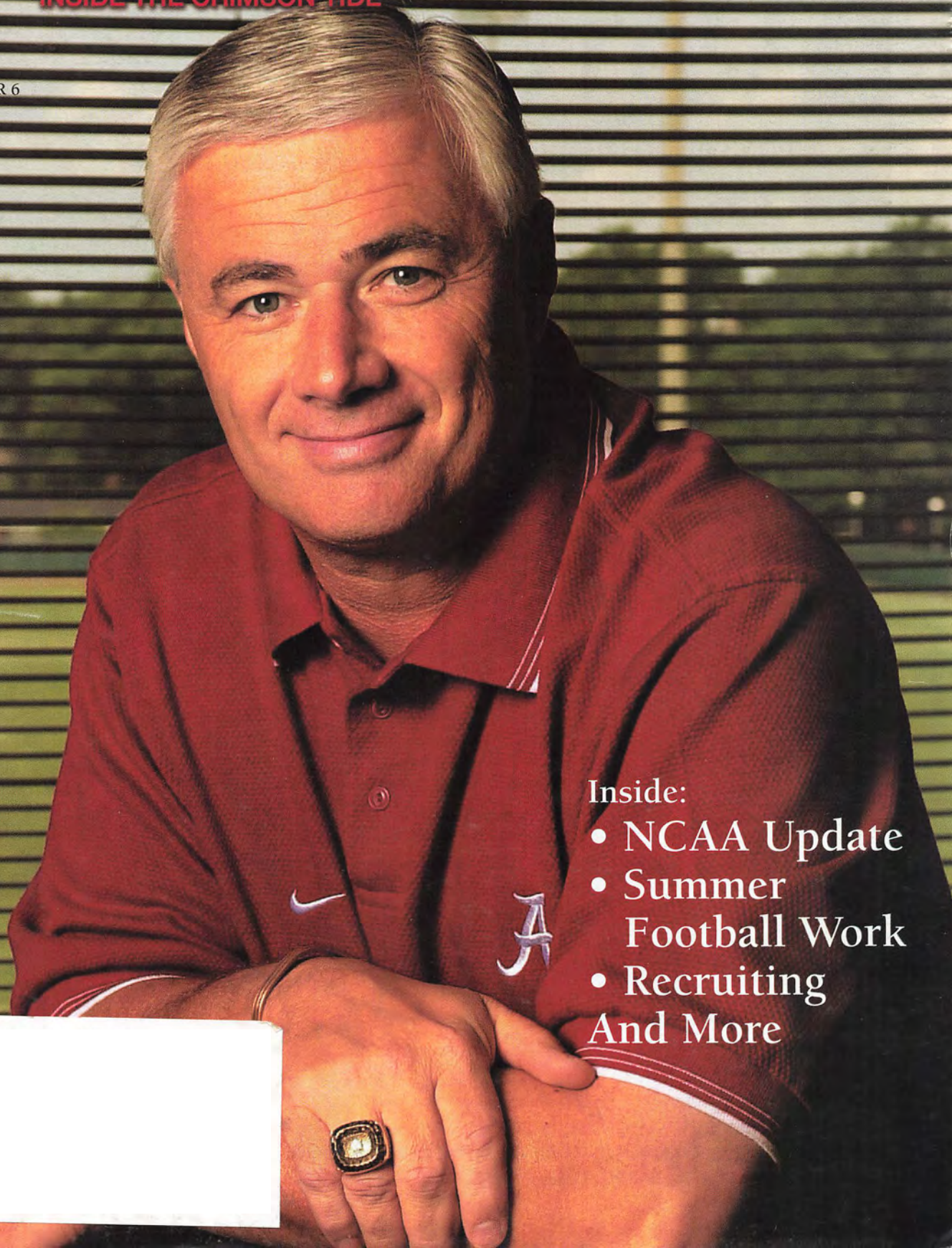


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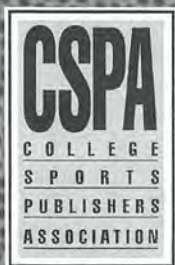
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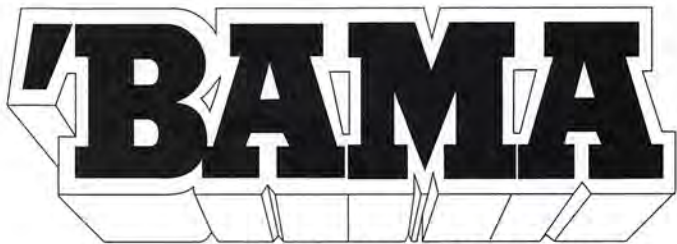
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Barry Fikes Photo



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BAMA SCORECARD

Wallace Drafted

There was an inclination to believe that in his freshman year as a member of the Alabama basketball team that Gerald Wallace had not posted the type numbers to attract attention from the NBA. Focusing on Wallace's weakness as a shooter overlooks the many other attributes he has, including quickness, jumping ability, physical maturity, and competitiveness. NBA scouts didn't overlook those qualities that make Wallace a potential star and he was the 25th pick in the first round this summer. He was selected by the Sacramento Kings.

Bama Head Coach Mark Gottfried, who could have resented Wallace's immature criticism of the Tide program, was glowing in his remarks of Wallace. "I'm really excited for Gerald, happy that he's going to have a good opportunity with Sacramento," said the Alabama head coach of Wallace who averaged 9.8 points and 6.0 rebounds his freshman season at Alabama in 2001. "We're going to miss Gerald with our team, but at the same time the coaching staff and his teammates are very excited for him and have all become instant Kings fans now that he's going there."

Wallace became the 14th Alabama basketball player to be selected in the first round of the NBA draft. He is the seventh first round pick from Bama in the past decade.

That string started in 1992 with Robert Horry, now holder of four NBA World Championship rings, going as the 11th pick to the Houston Rockets and Latrell Sprewell, now starring for the New York Knicks, going as the 24th pick to the Golden State Warriors.

The following year, 1993, James Robinson went in the first round to the Portland Trail Blazers as the 21st pick. In 1995, Antonio McDyess, now with the Denver Nuggets and holder of an Olympic Gold Medal as a member of the 2000 USA team, was the second pick by the Los Angeles Clippers. His Alabama teammate, Jason Caffey, joined him in the first round as the 20th pick, selected by the Chicago Bulls. In 1996 the Vancouver Grizzlies had the 22nd pick of the first round and selected Alabama's Roy Rogers.

Leon Douglas was Alabama's inaugural first round draft pick 25 years ago in 1976. He was selected fourth in the draft by the Detroit Pistons. Alabama's list of first round selections followed with Reggie King going to the Kansas City Kings as the 18th pick in 1979. Eddie Phillips went as the 21st pick to the New Jersey Nets in 1982. Ennis Whatley went as the 13th pick in the 1983 draft to the Kansas City Kings. In 1986 the Houston Rockets made Buck Johnson theirs with the 20th pick. And in 1987, Derrick McKey, who is still playing for the Indiana Pacers, was the ninth pick by the Seattle SuperSonics. And his teammate Jim Farmer went as the 20th pick to the Dallas Mavericks.

Yearbooks Are Coming

For a variety of reasons, production of the 2001 'BAMA FOOTBALL YEARBOOK was delayed, but orders should be in the mail soon.

Copies are available for \$12 by calling VISA or MasterCard orders to 1-800-713-2261 or by check or money order by writing BAMA FOOTBALL YEARBOOK, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa AL 35486.

Wallace is now the 34th Alabama player who will have taken his game on to the NBA.

Well Paid

Alabama had as many as eight players active in the NBA this past season, though by season's end, the number dwindled to six. Still, those six put on an act that Gerald Wallace no doubt would love to follow, not only with on the floor performances like Robert Horry's who won his fourth NBA World Championship title when he and the Lakers won the championship this past season, but in the financial realm as well.

According to the June 25 through July 1, 2001 issue of *Street & Smith's Sportsbusiness Journal*, Alabama's graduates to the NBA are among the highest paid in the league. In a ranking of schools with four or more former students in the NBA, former Tide's players ranked fourth of the 25 schools with an average per player salary of \$6,040,167, for a six-player total of \$36,241,000, led by Antonio McDyess's \$10,800,000 salary with the Denver Nuggets.

Michigan, with six players, ranked first with a \$7,142,666 per player average, bolstered by Juwan Howard's \$16,888,000 salary with the Dallas Mavericks. Georgetown, with ten active players, averaged \$6,761,300 (Alonzo Mourning also has a \$16,888,000 package), and Cal-Berkley was third with four players who averaged \$6,040,167.

Two other Southeastern Conference schools had four or more players in the NBA. Kentucky ranked 18th on the list with its ten active NBA players averaging \$3,196,338. And Florida was 33rd with its four active players who average \$1,955,290.

Alabama's six active players at the end of the NBA season included

David Benoit of the Utah Jazz, Jason Caffey of the Milwaukee Bucks, Robert Horry of the Los Angeles Lakers, Antonio McDyess of the Denver Nuggets, Derrick McKey of the Indiana Pacers, and Latrell Sprewell of the New York Knicks.

Other Losses

Although the defection of Gerald Wallace from Alabama's basketball team to the NBA was the most drastic loss for Coach Mark Gottfried, there were a couple of other roster setbacks. For the second time in barely over

a year forward Sam Haginas decided to leave the squad. Haginas had made the same decision late in the 2000 season, then re-joined the Tide last year. The 6-7 forward, who would have been a senior this year, saw limited duty, averaging 1.2 points and 1.4 rebounds in 19 games. One particularly bad aspect of Haginas' decision is it came too late for Gottfried to attempt to sign someone for his spot. Gottfried said Bama would have a lack of depth inside.

Gottfried also revealed that signee Lucky Williams, a 6-5 forward from Nigeria who played at Central Park Christian in Birmingham, had "just missed" being a full qualifier. He is expected to be a partial qualifier, which means he can enter The University and practice with the team, but cannot play his first year.

It was also announced that signee Kei Madison did not qualify academically and will play at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in Florida this year. The Tide is still waiting to see if 6-8 power forward Rodney Bias of Shelton State can complete his eligibility requirements this summer.

Gottfried had expected to lose walk-on guard Antoine Pettway after last season, but Pettway elected to return to Bama rather than accept a scholarship elsewhere. With the departure of Haginas, Pettway can be added as a scholarship player. It will count against next year's quota, which means the Tide can sign only four other players in 2001-02. (A new, unpopular NCAA rule limits men's basketball signees to eight over two years and no more than five in any one year.) Pettway, a point guard, played in 25 games and averaged 1.2 points and 1.8 assists.

Guardians

Although Alabama's men's basketball schedule is not quite complete, there is information about Bama being selected for a prestigious tournament, the inaugural Guardians Classic. The tournament is sponsored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Alabama was selected as one of four regional hosts for first and second round games. The Tide will play Mississippi Valley State on November 13. Also participating in Tuscaloosa will be Samford and Loyola Marymount. Consolation and championship games will be played November 14. Winners of the four regionals will move to the championship rounds November 20 and 21 at Kemper Arena in Kansas City.

A Drop

Alabama's number of WNBA players dropped fifty per cent this season. Linda Burgess was cut from the Sacramento Monarchs and former All-America Niesha Johnson is sitting out the season on a medical reserve. Johnson had a serious blood disorder late in the 2000 season, sending her into intensive care, and was not cleared to

play as her medical advisors suggested she sit out this season and return next season when she could play at 100 per cent strength. Johnson will be a free agent when she returns next season as the Charlotte Hornets released her rights.

Claybrook A Zebra

Could former Crimson Tide women's basketball player Leslie Claybrook become one of the few women officiating in the NBA? Claybrook, the 1989 Miss Basketball in the state of Alabama and Rick Moody's first official signee when he became Alabama's head coach in 1989, has been spending her summer as a WNBA referee. The NBA and WNBA hold invitation-only dual officials camps each year. Talk is that the NBA is interested in bringing more women into the male-dominated league, and those officials selected come from the camps.

In her day job, Claybrook is the assistant athletic director for compliance at Birmingham-Southern College.

All Sports Competition

Once upon a time Alabama was a yearly candidate for the SEC All-Sports Trophy, awarded to the school with the best overall program. SEC leaders elected to end that competition several years ago. However, an unofficial worksheet is kept and Alabama is now in the middle of the pack. For the 2000-01 year, Alabama was seventh among the 12 SEC schools in men's competition, sixth in women's competition and fifth in combined rankings.

New Assistant

Alabama head women's tennis coach Jenny Mainz has hired Daryl Greenan to be her new assistant coach.

Greenan, who previously was the head coach at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, replaces David Anderton. Greenan posted a 41-25 record in three seasons at MUW. Before going there he was assistant coach to the men and women's teams at Valdosta State (Georgia) University. Greenan was an All-America (1994-95) at Valdosta State. Greenan has coached and played professionally in satellite events in Florida and Germany.

Late Signees

Although most of the spring signees have already been announced, there were a few more revealed in recent weeks.

The women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody added Monique Bivins, a 5-9 forward from Alabaster. She was a four-year standout at Thompson High School. As a senior, Bivins averaged 25.6 points per game and earned 6A all-state. She was also named to *The Birmingham News* Super All-State squad.

Bivins is the Tide's fifth overall signee for 2001 and the fourth in-state player to ink with the Crimson Tide, joining Donyel Wheeler (Huffman), Mivvie Strickland (Vestavia Hills), Natasha Gamble (Jackson) and Katie Sipe of Columbia, Tennessee.

The men's track and field team of Coach Harvey Glance has added two signees, including one from Glance's alma mater, Phenix City Central.

Gabriel Warren of Phenix City, Alabama, holds the Central High School record in the high jump at 6-10 and is the state outdoor high jump champion. He also won the state event in 1999 indoors.

Bama also added Matthew Vogtner of McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile. He will add depth to the Tide's field events. He is a four-time state champion in the pole vault and was named his high school's 2000-01 Most Valuable Athlete.

The new signees join previously-announced Eric Cheek of Huntsville and Peter Kiprono of Kenya.

Softball Honors

The Alabama softball team placed three seniors on the Verizon Academic All-America teams. First baseman Ginger Jones made her second appearance as a first team Academic All-America, while outfielder Kelly Kretschman and catcher/designated hitter Kelley Askew made their first appearances on the second team.

Jones, who has a 3.63 grade point average in Marine Biology, is currently in California participating in the U.S. Women's National Team Camp, in an effort to win a spot on the 2004 Olympic team. She finished the season with a .326 average, 11 home runs and 38 runs batted in. She also led the conference in being hit by pitches with 13.

Askew, who has a 3.80 in Nursing, is a three-time academic All-SEC performer. She was named All-SEC as a freshman and was also selected 21st overall in the 2000 draft for the Women's Professional Softball League.

Kretschman, who has a 3.20 in General Health Studies, was an alternate on the 2000 U.S. Olympic team and a four-time All-America. She is also a three-time academic All-SEC member.

Additionally, Kretschman, juniors Shelley Laird and Suzanne Olcott, and freshman Jackie McClain were named first team Easton All-America.

Bama's 2002 squad will open the season with a three-game series at Arizona. Arizona won last year's national championship.

Golf Honor

Alabama junior women's golfer Sarah Johnston was named an honorable mention All-America by the National Golf Coaches Association for her play during the 2000-01 season.

Johnston, an All-SEC performer from Benton, Louisiana, becomes only the fifth Alabama women's golfer to garner All-America honors. She finished the season as Bama's leader in stroke average, setting a new program record at 74.53. Johnston also was the squad's top finisher at eight of 10 events and finished the season ranked 42nd in the College Golf Foundation individual national rankings.

In addition to her solid play, Johnston is a

standout in the classroom earning Academic All-America and All-SEC accolades.

Track Success

Alabama All-America hurdler Ron Bramlett won the national championship in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.54 at this year's NCAA Championships. He led Bama to sixth place.

Bramlett, who won the SEC title earlier in the year after losing the 60-meter indoor title to Indiana State's Aubrey Herring by one-one hundredth of a second, is the second Alabama winner of the event. Keith Talley took the title in 1986.

Bramlett's success was even more amazing considering his status entering the 2001 outdoor season. At the NCAA Indoor Championships, he fell at the end of his race and suffered a broken clavicle, side-lining him for six weeks.

David Kimani recorded a third place finish in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 3:38.74, while Miguel Pate earned All-America status in the triple jump placing 10th with a mark of 15.72 meters.

Later in the summer Pate earned a spot on the U.S. World Championship team with his performance at the USA Track and Field Championships. Pate placed second in the long jump with a mark of 27-4, putting him on the U.S. World Championship Team, which will compete in the World University Games in Beijing, China. He is also eligible to participate in the 2001 Goodwill Games.

"I'm overwhelmed, making my first World Championship team," said Pate. "I came here with that goal in mind and now I hope to represent the U.S. well."

Bramlett competed in the 110-meter hurdles and placed eighth. He was, however, the top collegian in the event so he will also participate in the World University Games.

Former Alabama All-America and the 2000 NCAA 3000-meter steeplechase winner Tim Broe also participated in the meet. Broe was leading the event up through the final hurdle, but tripped on his final jump and finished third. He did qualify for the U.S. World Championship Team.

The eighth annual IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) World Championships will be held in Edmonton, Canada, August 3-12. The Goodwill Games will be held in Brisbane, Australia, August 29-September 9.

Tennis Honor

Alabama's Maxim Belski was named to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's All-American Team. Belski, a sophomore, finished the season with a 21-12 overall record and was ranked 19th in the final ITA poll. Belski played in the number one position in Alabama's lineup throughout the season and helped to take the Crimson Tide back to the NCAA team tournament.

Belski competed in the NCAA individual singles tournament as well. Belski was also selected to the first-team All-SEC squad for his play this season.

Alabama finished the year ranked 19th.

The Season Is Drawing Near

by Kirk McNair

Alabama will soon begin preparing for football season opening game against UCLA

This summer, most of the interest in Alabama football has been on speculation about the whats and whens of the NCAA investigation (see Page 10), or the off-season program in which virtually every Bama hopeful was on campus working out (see Page 13), or on the surprisingly good news in recruiting (see Page 26). But there are a few other things going on. And in a matter of days the emphasis will shift to the Alabama football team, first the newcomers, then the entire squad.

A football team is allowed to bring in 105 players for two-a-day pre-season camp. Those come in two stages. Players who have never been a part of Alabama football practice are newcomers and are allowed to report a few days early. In Alabama's case that will be Sunday, August 5. Those newcomers will have two practices in helmets, shoulder pads, and shorts on Monday, August 6, and on Wednesday, August 8.

Returning veterans (and that includes the likes of freshman Brodie Croyle and junior college transfer Atlas Herrion, last year's signees but players who took part in spring practice) will report on August 8 and begin two-a-days in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets Friday, August 10. Beginning Tuesday, August 14, full-speed, full-gear work is permitted. That schedule will continue until classes begin on Wednesday, August 22, when one-a-day practices go into effect. That's also the day that all squad members not included in the 105 reporting group can begin practice.

All of this is leading towards the season-opener when Alabama hosts UCLA on September 1, the official start of the Crimson Tide's Dennis Franchione Era. That game is one of a handful of early contests for which television plans and kickoff times have been set. The Tide-UCLA game will be on ESPN beginning at 6:45 p.m. CDT.

Bama's game at Vanderbilt on September 8 will be a regional Jefferson-Pilot telecast with kickoff shortly after 11:30 a.m. CDT, while the September 15 contest against Southern Miss at Legion Field in Birmingham will kick off at 4:45 p.m. CDT and be telecast by ESPN2.

There has been some discussion of serious matters. The primary Alabama football question has been "What kind of offense will Alabama run?" Franchione has a good answer. "UCLA would like to know, too," he says. He does reveal that Alabama will be tailback-oriented, but will take advantage of its depth and talent at wide receiver. And he said that Bama might run an option, but won't be an option team.

There has also been discussion of less important matters. Will Alabama move from its traditional East sideline at home games to the West sideline? Perhaps. Will Franchione wear a coat and tie? No. He'll be casual.

To the surprise of no one, Alabama lost a few players in the off-season. Punter Matthew Sanders (whose brother, Mark, is an incoming freshman offensive lineman) elected to leave Bama in order to pursue a baseball career in junior college. Sanders was a redshirt freshman who was not able to beat out returning punter Lane Bearden. Although no official reason was given for wide receiver Derrick Woods and safety Connie Brown electing to leave Alabama, there was speculation the two had academic problems. It was also confirmed that linebacker Harold James, who was suspended from the squad prior to the start of spring practice, has left Alabama. Casey Gilbert, a back-up tight end who had also been tried in the offensive and defensive lines, had been rumored as a possible defection and he did elect to leave Bama this summer, reportedly for a junior college in his native Mississippi. There were also some

lost walk-ons, including quarterback Scott Crouch who has gone to South Carolina.

And a non-scholarshipped player few have heard of, Robert "Bo" Freeland, elected to transfer. With Sanders leaving, the loss of Freeland affects depth at punter. It could mean an expanded role for former high school soccer star Michael Ziifle, who has the ability to punt as well as place kick. Many have expected Ziifle to earn the kick-off job for Bama this fall.

On the plus side, Alabama has picked up a couple of transfers. They won't be eligible to play until 2002, but they will be able to participate in practice this fall. They are running back Shaud Williams from Texas Tech and defensive tackle Brad West from LSU.

Williams, 5-8, 178, gained 658 yards on 112 carries as a freshman at Texas Tech in 1999. Included in that total was a school record 230 yards on 21 carries against Colorado. However, Texas Tech shifted its offense to a passing game and moved Williams to slotback in his sophomore season. As a sophomore in 2000, he rushed for 223 yards on 55 carries - the second-best total on a Red Raider team that rushed for just 799 yards on the season - and caught 48 passes for 299 yards. Williams was one of the top prospects in Texas when he signed with Texas Tech in February, 1999. The former Andrews (Texas) High School star had rushed for 2,121 yards as a senior and had considered Franchione's TCU team.

West, who played at Gurley High School in Madison, is a 6-3, 272-pound defensive tackle who was redshirted as a freshman at LSU last year. West reportedly has said he will pay his own way the first semester at The Capstone, hoping to sign and be placed on scholarship next year. And that may very well be how things work out. But he was released from his scholarship by LSU, meaning that he could have received financial aid im-

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mediately from Alabama. And with the Tide expecting to bring in no more than 19 new players on scholarship this fall, there would have been room. Of course NCAA rules governing transfers dictate he must sit out a season before playing. But while the staff welcomes West and certainly hope he can earn a scholarship during practice this fall, he will begin his Alabama career as a walk-on.

Additionally, a player expected to leave is back on campus for the Tide. Defensive back Roberto McBride toyed with the idea of transferring to City College of San Francisco (a junior college that has provided a handful of players to Bama in recent years). However, he is back in Tuscaloosa and will resume practice with the Tide. McBride signed with Alabama in 1999 and redshirted his first year on campus. Then academic problems kept him off the field last season. The Lakeland, Florida native has been tried at several positions during his Bama career, including stints at receiver and cornerback where he ended the spring. On the last depth chart following the A-Day scrimmage, McBride was listed fourth-string at left cornerback. He also has potential as a kick return man.

The academic jury is still out on a handful of returning players who had to take care of some school work this summer and on a signee or two who had not yet been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.

One of the most interesting of those regards Mac Tyler, the 6-6, 340-pound defensive lineman from Bessemer. Tyler signed with Alabama following the 1999 football season, but was not academically eligible. He went to Milford Prep in Connecticut and signed with Alabama again in February. This summer there was a report that he is not yet academically eligible. There was a suggestion that Franchione expects Tyler to head to junior college with the hope of signing again in two years. (He would be eligible to sign with any school in that case.) There is still the chance Tyler could be declared eligible and report with incoming freshmen, but that is considered a long shot. If he is declared a partial qualifier he could enter school and participate in practice, but not play in games his freshman year.

There were also reports that even if Tyler is declared eligible by the NCAA Clearinghouse that he would not be admitted by The University. In that case he would be free to sign elsewhere. However, it might be too late for him to enroll at another school this year.

A Memphis newspaper reported that Tyler had retained an attorney to help him get his release from Alabama so he could sign with another school (those mentioned were Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Michigan State, and other sources have said he wants to go to Auburn).



Ellis Johnson

The newspaper said that Milford Coach Bill Chaplick said Tyler (who had 75 tackles and 13 sacks last fall) made the necessary test score for academic eligibility, but that report may not be accurate.

Unless there is new law made, Alabama cannot be forced to release Tyler until his status is determined.

Junior college transfer fullback Quentin Bowens is not yet guaranteed to be available this fall. Bowens is a native of Killen who signed with East Central (Mississippi) Community College after failing to meet NCAA eligibility requirements out of high school. At 6-0, 255, he's a powerful athlete who projects as a blocking fullback at Alabama. Bowens is the brother of former Tide receiver Tim Bowens and the half-brother of incoming linebacker Freddie Roach. He was attempting to complete his requirements for graduation from junior college this summer at Shelton State in Tuscaloosa.

This summer is also important to a handful of returning Alabama players, including fullback Marvin Brown, who missed last season with academic problems. He did well in the spring semester, but still had work to get done this summer.

Ordinarily if someone is working, he is not expecting to be paid by someone for whom he is not working. However, that's not the case with former Crimson Tide Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson, who is now the head football coach at his alma mater, The Citadel.

Johnson had an extended contract at Alabama, in part because he is a recovering cancer victim and The University wanted to be sure that Johnson was never without insurance. After Mike DuBose was fired last year and Franchione elected to not keep any

of the DuBose staff, Johnson found new employment. However, his job as head coach at The Citadel reportedly pays quite a bit less than the \$122,000 he was making at Bama. Johnson wants The University to pay him the balance of his contract through the 2002 football season.

Some other football notes:

Rhoda Vaughn, Alabama's ticket manager, said tickets will be mailed August 10. She also said that single game tickets, if available, may be ordered through the internet by going on-line to www.rolltide.com

There is no mistake on the 2001 and 2002 Alabama football schedules. Yes, Mississippi State will make trips to Tuscaloosa both years. The 2001 season marks the final year of the 5-2-1 Southeastern Conference schedule format. The 5-2-1 format allowed for each school to play all five of its division opponents, along with two permanent and one rotating non-divisional opponent each year.

The 2002 season will mark the beginning of a 5-1-2 schedule format that will allow for each school to play all five of its division opponents, along with one permanent and two rotating non-division opponents each year.

Alabama's permanent opponents are Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State. The permanent non-division opponent is Tennessee.

With the beginning of the new rotation, Alabama and Mississippi State must meet in Tuscaloosa in both 2001 and 2002.

Schedule adjustments are not unusual. When the SEC went to the 5-1-2 format in 1992, Alabama had to play LSU in Baton Rouge after having also gone to LSU in 1991.

The 2001 season will be the last time Alabama plays two of its home games in Birmingham. The Tide will play Southern Miss and Texas El-Paso at Legion Field this year, but in 2002 will play only Middle Tennessee State in Birmingham. That game will be the season opener.

A total of three Alabama football players were selected in the recent NFL draft and at least six others signed with teams as free agents.

Drafted were defensive back Tony Dixon, who went in the second round (56th overall pick) to the Dallas Cowboys. Selected in the third round (81st pick) was defensive tackle Kenny Smith who went to the New Orleans Saints. And in the fifth round (156th selection) was offensive lineman/tight end Shawn Draper who was drafted by the Miami Dolphins.

Signing free agent contracts were offensive tackle Will Cuthbert with the Detroit Lions, center Paul Hogan with the New York Giants, defensive back Milo Lewis with the New Orleans Saints, fullback Dustin McClintock with the Jacksonville Jaguars, offensive guard Griff Redmill with the San Diego Chargers, and defensive back Marcus Spencer with the Tennessee Titans.

No News Is Not Necessarily Good

by Kirk McNair

No one knows when letter will come, but Alabama officials think they will be prepared

As the NCAA Enforcement Staff continues what seems to be an interminable investigation of Alabama football, short of changing its name to Notre Dame, The University appears to have done all it can do to appease the investigators.

The investigation, which last winter an NCAA staff member optimistically suggested might be completed by June 1, will hopefully conclude by the time Alabama opens the 2001 season on September 1, but there are no guarantees. Apologists for the NCAA provide a skewed vindication for the bureaucracy's delay by pointing out its long history of allowing its member institutions to twist in the wind while it stumbles and bumbles through an investigation.

There is no doubt that Alabama will receive a Letter of Official Inquiry, the next step in the NCAA's schedule of charging and convicting. And while one can hear rumors of anything—including the penalties that will be assessed for conviction of charges not yet leveled—the truth is that no one knows for sure what the letter will say.

Alabama's defense team says that it is prepared for any eventuality, that there will be no charges which will catch The University off guard. The only surprises will be positive, possible charges not levied. However, that should not be taken as a beacon of hope.

It could be that those closest to the situation are naturally pessimistic, but those who are most familiar with NCAA practice and with the scope of this specific investigation are mostly in the category of Gloom and Doom. However, no one is specific as to wrongdoings, a reasonable stance since to reveal a possibility might be to further expand the investigation.

Not that Alabama has not been cooperative with the NCAA. Some of those interviewed have said that Alabama staff members have been the most zealous inquisitors. In another setting, much of Alabama's defense team might be considered collaborators. The leader of the team is Stan Murphy, a staff attorney for The University with a reputation of being very smart, and it is believed that Murphy will vigorously contest any charges he feels are unjust.

However, beyond Murphy come those

with the potential for a conflict of interest. Alabama's Faculty Chairman of Athletics and a professor in the school of law, Gene Marsh, also serves as a member of the NCAA Infractions Committee. Obviously he will not be sitting on that committee when Alabama's case is heard. It remains to be seen how or if his presence across the table from his fellow committee members will impact their view of The University.

Marie Robbins, associate athletics director for compliance, is in the difficult position of being charged with finding all the facts in the case. However, she was also in charge—as her title suggests—of Alabama being in compliance.

The NCAA likes for institutions to fire those who have failed in their duties to uphold the rules of the organization. Most of those suspected of actually breaking the rules have been fired. The names most likely to appear in the letter from the NCAA are former Head Football Coach Mike DuBose, former Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell, and former Assistant Coach Ivy Williams. So, would the Infractions Committee be impressed if Alabama fired Robbins? Or removed Marsh as faculty chairman? (In this regard, it should be remembered that the NCAA Infractions Committee is not known for its sense of humor...or sense of justice or any other sense for that matter.)

In 1995 when Alabama received outrageously unjust penalties from the NCAA, it was agreed that one problem Alabama had made was hiring a specialist in NCAA matters as part of its defense team. (Other schools, including Mississippi State, had the same experience.) When the Alabama defense team was being assembled this time, The University elected once again to eschew an attorney with no connections to the NCAA. Bama hired a man who works hand and glove with the NCAA, former NCAA Investigator Rich Hilliard. When Alabama's case is over, Hilliard will still be living in Indianapolis (NCAA headquarters) and will still be working closely with the NCAA. If Alabama receives only token charges, this will have proved to be a wise move.

Beyond the obvious of wanting to know when the letter will come and what the letter will say, there is an interest by The

University (and, for instance, Dennis Franchione) in wanting to know when it can all be resolved. As with all things bureaucratic, it is impossible to say.

The University is expected to be able to respond very quickly. Any others named in the letter, such as the aforementioned fired football coaches, must be given time to formulate a defense. The Infractions Committee meets six times per year and usually discharges two cases per sitting.

For months Alabama has been hoping for a fall appearance with hopes of conclusion before the February 6, 2002, Signing Day. Alabama has already been penalized one recruiting season by the timing of the investigation and would like to not have another damaged as extra penalty.

Much has been speculated as to penalties Alabama will self-impose, usually including removing itself from bowl consideration at the conclusion of this season and reducing the number of scholarships to be offered. It has been pointed out that the Infractions Committee wants to show how important it is, and so regardless of what penalties Alabama might impose on itself, the committee will add others. So Alabama needs to demonstrate its sincere contriteness as it grovels before the committee, but being too harsh on itself could result in the athletics equivalent of inviting Dr. Kavorkian for a visit.

One interesting tidbit to come out this summer is that The University is not required to release the contents of the letter. (In a case against Auburn, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that this is not part of the public's right to know.) After University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson receives the letter, the decision will be made as to whether to release any or all of the contents.

The NCAA does have an appeals process, but it is rarely invoked by a school. Following the 1995 decision against Alabama, an individual (former Faculty Chairman of Athletics Tom Jones) sued the NCAA and the organization reached an out-of-court settlement with him that included reducing Alabama's probation period by one year, but which did not remove any of the Draconian penalties imposed against The University.

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Successful Coaches Are Rewarded

by Kirk McNair

AD Mal Moore awards new contracts to Mark Gottfried, Don Staley and Judy Green

One of the first tasks performed by Mal Moore upon becoming athletics director in late 1999 was to make sure that Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells would remain with the Crimson Tide. Moore negotiated a four-year extension to Wells' contract at a time when he was being looked at by other major programs.

When Moore brought in Dennis Franchione the Tide gave its new football coach a seven-year contract.

There is a good reason for giving contract extensions and signing up successful coaches for extended periods. In almost every college sport, a common denominator of success is stability. Alabama's greatest success has come when there was stability, most notably during the 25-year (1958-82) reign of Paul W. "Bear" Bryant being Bama's football coach. Late in Bryant's career he discussed contract lengths and noted that "The University wanted to give me a lifetime contract, but I turned it down." A reporter alluded to Bryant's god-like stature when he asked, "Why? Did you want longer?"

This summer, Moore has extended the contracts of three successful Alabama coaches.

Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried signed a new contract that extended his current pact by four years to a seven-year commitment. Gottfried has been at Alabama for three seasons.

Moore said, "Mark took over a program that was down and brought it back up by creating excitement throughout the state. Attendance increased by 3,000 a game this past season, and there is a lot of excitement surrounding his program. Mark expects big things for this program and has shown he's committed to making it happen. The future of Alabama basketball looks bright."

Gottfried's contract calls for a base salary of \$150,000 and a \$500,000 annual talent fee for radio and television obligations, making it a yearly salary of \$650,000.

"I'm excited and very thankful," said Gottfried, who was a star player for the Crimson Tide (1985-87). "It's my dream to



Mark Gottfried

be here for a long time. We're building a national contender, so our expectations are high and we will continue to work hard to make things happen. I'm excited for the future."

Head Women's Soccer Coach Don Staley, who ranks among the top 20 NCAA coaches in all-time victories, was granted a three-year extension this summer.

Coach Staley is a great representative for the athletics department in the community as well as the state, in promoting soccer," said Moore. "I believe he's got his best years ahead of him for The University and the soccer program."

Staley, who initiated women's soccer as an intercollegiate sport at Alabama, has posted a 72-64-4 record in seven seasons at Alabama including three Southeastern Conference Western Division titles and the school's first ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 1999.

Since Staley began the program in 1994, he has coached 12 All-SEC players including

five of the seven SEC Goalkeepers of the Year and nine all-region players. He was named the SEC Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1998. He has also put an emphasis on his players' performance in the classroom, evidenced by 48 Academic All-SEC performers.

"We are at a great institution with proven tradition," said Staley. "We believe that just being at Alabama is already an advantage because this university is synonymous with greatness."

Also receiving a contract extension was Head Volleyball Coach Judy Green. Moore signed her to a new contract through the 2003 season, a three-year extension.

Entering her sixth season with the Tide, Green has built a strong volleyball program at Alabama including back-to-back winning seasons and the program's first-ever SEC Western Division title last year.

"I am very pleased with the progress and direction that the volleyball program is taking under Coach Green," said Moore. "She has guided the program to a high level of success including last year's SEC West title. I appreciate the effort and commitment of her and her staff and look forward to more successful seasons ahead."

Green, who owns a career record of 463-169, ranks 16th among active NCAA coaches with a .733 winning percentage. The total of 463 victories ranks her 23rd in the nation. Her squads have increased their win totals every season since her arrival. Bama is coming off a 22-8 record, the second most wins in modern Bama volleyball history and a school-best 11-4 SEC record.

Since her arrival at Alabama in 1996, Green has coached six All-SEC performers including two-time all-district standout Michelle Green. She has had 26 student-athletes earn Academic All-SEC honors, including a school-record 12 in 2000. Last season, the Tide volleyball squad led all varsity sports with a cumulative team grade point average of 3.52 and had a trio of players listed among The University's Top Six Scholar Athletes.

More Strength Only One Benefit

by J.E. Lisby

Players believe they are coming closer together

Since arriving in Tuscaloosa last December, Dennis Franchione has been fond of reminding often-skeptical reporters that he's "still unbeaten" as head football coach at Alabama. It's a clever line, almost always good for a laugh. But its underlying truth is also clear. Ultimately, Franchione's tenure at Alabama will be judged by wins and losses—and those are earned on the football field.

Whatever the outcome of that first game against UCLA, there is little doubt that Franchione has made a remarkable beginning. From the moment he took over the talented but demoralized Tide squad, Franchione spoke of the mutual "adoption" that would be necessary, coach to players and players to coach. "I know the drill; I've been through this before," Franchione said. "Since January, I've seen marked improvement. One of the things that I preach is accountability, and that takes on a lot of different forms. But in regards to team building it is a feeling of being accountable to each other. What you want is for that change to permeate your team. When you get that, you eliminate selfishness. You eliminate individuals putting themselves in front of the team. You begin to develop the attitude of 'I got your back,' and that means that I'm accountable to you."

It's not that last year's squad was a selfish group. But for whatever reason, those athletes never were able to develop into a team. "Before Coach Fran got here it was amazing how divided we were," said junior tailback Ahmaad Galloway. "I never really knew that, because I didn't have anything to compare it to. But now I see it. Previously we were a bunch of guys who played together. Either you got along with them or you didn't. But now it's like a family. Everybody shares the same purpose. We want to win."

The collapse of last year's highly touted squad defied explanation. Undoubtedly the season-opening loss on national television

was a difficult blow to absorb. And as is often the case with a "bad" team, bad luck, including injuries, played a role. But at base it was poor play and poorer coaching that doomed the Tide to its worst record in more than three decades. Suffering most were the players. "At the first meeting I had with the players last December, I asked them what went wrong," Franchione said. "They did not point fingers. The one thing that did come out of it was that they felt they let the fans down, they let each other down, and they let the school down. They felt terrible about it, and they didn't want to go through that again."

Normally when a new staff takes over a settled program, there is inevitable resistance from athletes accustomed to the old regime. But if there was one good thing to come out of last season's terrible record, it was certain knowledge by the players that change—and lots of it—was needed. "These guys did not come here to be 3-8," said Ben Pollard, Alabama's head strength and condi-

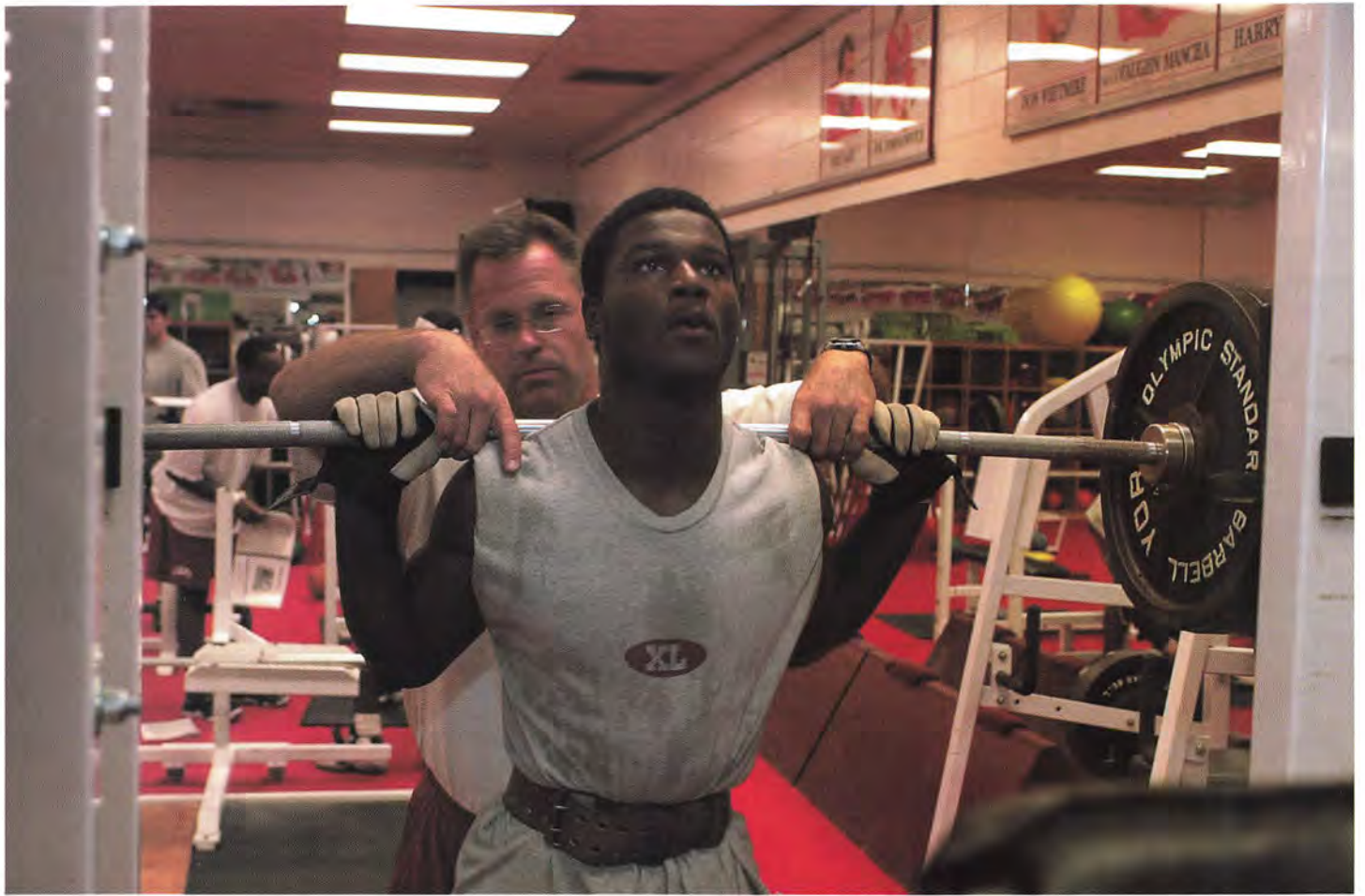
tioning coach. "That's not what they wanted. It's not what they signed up for. They want to have success. To a man, if you went out and asked them individually if they enjoyed last season they would tell you they did not. The desire is there, but you've got to have a plan and a direction."

Having turned around five programs in his career as a head coach, Franchione knew what was needed. Trust and accountability are his watchwords, but the end result was discipline. "The discipline they brought with them has really helped," said senior linebacker Victor Ellis. "It was something we needed, obviously. We had rules before, but the players found out quickly that this time they would be enforced. And it all started with going to class. We have to go to class no matter what. It doesn't matter if you got home at four in the morning—you still go to class. It started there, and then other rules were put in and have been enforced. Some guys had to leave

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Alabama Strength and Conditioning Coach Ben Pollard gets walk-on wide receiver Joel Babb set up for his lift in a summer workout session. Babb is one of a number of non-scholarshipped players participating in off-season on-campus workouts. B arry Fikes Photo

because they didn't obey the rules, but now I think the whole squad knows that this staff is for real."

During those first winter months, a renewed emphasis on academics coupled with Franchione's commitment to the weight room taught the Tide players that "student-athlete" was more than a phrase. Spring practice is the most obvious responsibility for football players, and the first under Franchione was spent installing new schemes and assessing athleticism. But that wasn't the end of the coach-player relationship. In May Franchione challenged his squad again. "I told them the bottom line is we get to invite 105 players to camp in August. And I can't require you to stay here and work out, but I don't have to include you in the 105 if you're not completely committed. The kind of commitment you need to compete and win championships is to be here all summer.

"Training in our sport is not part-time anymore. Years ago you used to report and then get into shape during fall practice. But

today you either report in shape or fall practice runs by you and over you. I made sure the players understood that."

In recent seasons at The Capstone, the end of spring semester signaled a mass exodus of players to vacations and summer jobs back home. Franchione has changed those habits. Interim classes (a short period between spring semester and the first semester of summer school) usually results in a nearly deserted campus. This year every Tide senior remained in Tuscaloosa, setting the tone for younger teammates. And with the start of the first summer term every scholarshipped player was on campus.

The benefits of that effort go beyond the physical. "I believe beyond a doubt that team chemistry is built (working out) during the summertime," Pollard said. "The one thing about the weight room is you can measure some parts of it in concrete numbers. This kid weighs less. This one weighs more. This kid can bench more, clean more, run faster and

jump higher. Those are tangible things that we can measure for improvement. But I don't think you can ever measure things like team chemistry, team unity and trust. Those are intangibles, and those are the things that kids will remember 20 years from now."

"Team morale is high, and it's a lot better than it has been in the past," Ellis said. "Without a doubt, I think that the new coaches have had everything to do with it. Most important was making everybody be here. That's the number one thing. This is the first time since I've been here that the whole team has been here for the summer."

Much has been written about the squad's recent gains in the weight room. The increased strength and improved conditioning should boost the Tide's chances in games. But even more important to Franchione is the knowledge that the former collection of talented individuals is transforming into a team. "This is my sixth opportunity to take over a program, and this group of players has adjusted better than any of the others," he said. "And the only explanation I can

give for that is that they were hungry for direction, boundaries, vision—having expectations explained and discipline.

“When we first got here the players were thinking about themselves, about how they were going to be used in games. Not ‘How can I help the team?’ One of the big things you’ll hear me say in the fall is ‘Find a way to help the team.’ This group has taken some big steps in that regard. They’re not where I want them to be, but they’re not where they used to be.”

Franchione presented the challenge—in-
deed, for all intents, the requirement—that every player use the summer months to get stronger and improve as an athlete. Realizing that proper diet coupled with hard work will yield physical gains, Franchione puts Pollard in charge of the program. And it is the job of the athletes to sling the weights, slog through endless agility drills, and sweat off extra pounds sprinting under the withering Alabama sun.

Apart from the benefits to the team’s conditioning, all that shared work and effort is producing other positive results. “There have been a lot of guys holding each other accountable, knocking on doors, calling on the phone—doing whatever it takes,” Galloway said. “Anything that involves conflict and work is going to bring people together. And what we’ve been through these last couple of months makes you come together. We get up in the morning together, we run together. During the week we can sometimes have individual times to work out, but always at least once a week we’re all together. That word ‘together’ keeps coming back again and again and after awhile you have that nucleus and you form a team.

“When you stop to think it really is hard to believe. We’ve got guys on this team from all different backgrounds, but I suppose it’s a lot like going through boot camp. You arrive individuals. But after all that work, after awhile every time you march you just hear one footstep.”

Galloway’s comments are no surprise to his head coach. NCAA rules prevent him from taking a hands-on role during the summer, but Franchione still makes it a habit to visit in the weight room frequently. And he has witnessed the change in attitude from last January. “I like to go down there, and I like to be around the players,” Franchione said. “I want them to know the weight room is important to me, that what they’re doing is important to me. I see them developing a confidence in themselves and in each other. I see a chemistry of having fun and working hard together. I see a development of trust



Defensive end Antwan Odom gets a spot from quarterback Tyler Watts. Head Coach Dennis Franchione puts a lot of emphasis on the strength program and a lot of stock in players who are willing to work through the summer.
B Barry Fikes Photo

and communication from player to player, from player to coach and from coach to player that I think is going to be vital to our success. Winning teams are built every day. It’s a 365-days-a-year, constant, daily process.”

As the Bama players work every day in the weight room and outside in conditioning, Franchione’s mission to rebuild the once-proud Tide team continues to move forward. Physically, the reasonable hope is that the benefits will prove obvious come September

I when the athletes trot onto the field to take on UCLA. But the Bruin’s roster also will be dotted with talented athletes, and whichever team has the mental edge will probably prevail. “Come fall, everything will mean so much more,” said Galloway. “If you’ve been going through the same thing we’ve been going through, then pain and hurt will be the only thing you feel after a loss.

“But we don’t plan on losing.”

Senior Receivers Share Thoughts

by J.E. Lisby

Trio has great expectations for final football season

Talent is obviously an essential ingredient for any successful team, but coaches know that even a squad loaded with gifted athletes can fall short if it doesn't have effective veteran leadership. Alabama has several athletes hoping to assume that role with the 2001 Crimson Tide football team, but Bama is especially

blessed in its receiving corps, where senior starters Freddie Milons, Jason McAddley and Terry Jones, Jr. are all being touted for post-season honors.

Milons and McAddley saw extensive action as freshmen and assumed starting roles during their sophomore years, while Jones has started for the Tide since his first season as a true freshman. For all three players their time at The Capstone has rushed by. "It's really gone by quickly," Jones said. "I can remember tackling Freddie from behind that first spring. It seems like it was yesterday. I was scared that first year. It was like something out of that movie, 'The Program.' I was afraid to make a mistake."

"Yeah, I was intimidated," Milons said. "At least when I first came here I was."

"My freshman year I was shaking," McAddley said. "I didn't want to make a mistake."

Last year three senior offensive linemen sat down for a pre-season conversation with 'BAMA. This year three senior receivers, wideouts Freddie Milons of Starkville, Mississippi, and Jason McAddley of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and tight end Terry Jones of Tuscaloosa, share their thoughts on a variety of subjects.

With 85,000-plus screaming fans rocking Bryant-Denny Stadium, it's hard to believe that receivers can block the pandemonium out. But that's exactly what happens. "You hardly see the fans," McAddley said. "When you catch that ball you're focusing so hard that you don't even hear. You catch the ball and you're running and everything is dead silent. When I'm running my route, and I see that ball in the air coming to me, I don't hear anything else. In fact, I can hear the ball rushing through the air. Then when you touch the ball and you know you've scored, the sound hits you. You're all hyped up giving your teammates high-fives, and that's when you start to hear. All of a sudden the crowd noise washes over you."

Said Jones, "It's not instantaneous. It's like turning the volume up. When the play is going, all you see is the play. You don't see anybody. It's tunnel vision."

The ability to block out all external stim-

Freddie Milons had an outstanding sophomore season. He is expected to be one of Bama's leaders as a senior this year. Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST 2001



uli-focusing exclusively on the football—is crucial for receivers. “Every time I don’t look the ball in, I drop it,” Milons said. “There are plenty of times when I think I get over-anxious. I try to rush my rhythm. I know the defender is behind me, and I’m trying to catch it too soon. You’re thinking about making your move to get away, but if you don’t look the ball in, you’ll drop it every time.”

“The balls where you’re wide open are the hardest ones to catch,” Jones said. “In the Southern Miss game I was wide open and dropped the ball. Then later I had a guy on my back and caught it with one hand.”

Added Milons, “It is so easy to catch a ball with a defender on me—and so easy to drop a ball when I’m wide open. If you know you’re open, then you have nothing to concentrate on. When you see the ball coming, the first thing you think about is ‘I’m wide open.’ You can’t be negative, but you’ve got to remind yourself ‘I can drop this ball.’”

It is on crossing routes over the middle—when defensive backs are lying in wait for a chance to punish the receiver—that the athlete must raise his concentration level to another level. “I don’t care who it is, nobody likes to get tackled,” Milons said. “But you know you have to catch that ball. One of the creeds I remember is there is only one ball. One ball. Everybody is watching where it’s going, and everybody wants it. So if you get the chance to catch a ball, you’d better catch it. Because if you don’t catch it, then you’re not guaranteed another one. But when that defender is behind you and coming fast, that’s when it really gets quiet. Then all you hear is ‘Bam!’ And then you hear yourself moan.”

Pain is part of the game. “During three-a-days my freshman year, it was my first time going across the middle, and the outside linebacker hit me square,” Jones said. “Then we ran the same play to the other side, and the same guy flattened me again. I was lying there on the ground saying, ‘This ain’t for me.’ My sophomore year in the Florida game I took a little screen and when I turned around the guy was right in my face. He hit me so hard it turned my earpiece around, and my chin-strap came loose and was lying on the ground. Everybody was looking at me, seeing if I was going to get up.”

“You just can’t lie there on the ground,” McAddley said. “That would give the defense the momentum. No matter how hard you get hit, you’ve got to get up, or they’ll feel like they got the best of you. You’ll see a lot of receivers get hit hard, then try to get up quickly. They don’t want people to



Terry Jones, Jr. has had big moments as a receiver, though most of his work has been as a blocker. He is expected to be a big part of Alabama's offense this year. Barry Fikes Photo

know it hurt.”

Added Jones, “I’m a big guy, and I can inflict some punishment myself. But it doesn’t matter. If you’re going across the middle, you’re exposing yourself. You’re giving the opposition a free shot.”

Football can be a brutal game, but most participants abide by an unwritten code that serves to protect athletes from unnec-

essary injury. There are exceptions to the rule. “You don’t want to play dirty, because there are too many ways for payback,” Milons said. “A lot goes on in those pile-ups. Against South Carolina I got tackled and this guy was digging at my eyeballs. He was gouging in my eye. I was on my back waiting to get up. So in one motion, I turned on my stomach and I came up with

my fist and slugged him. The ref didn't see it, and most of the players didn't see it. But I know he felt it. And it only happened because of what he was doing."

"I was working against Alex Brown (Florida's All-America defensive end) my sophomore year," Jones said. "He doesn't like to get hit, and when the play was away from him he got mad that I was blocking him and elbowed me. So after that when the play came toward him I hit him low. Afterwards, as I walked away and he lay there on the ground grabbing his leg, I looked over my shoulder and just shrugged. I was only doing my job. He shouldn't have elbowed me."

Even with thousands of spectators in the stands and multiple television cameras on hand, a lot more occurs on the football field than meets the eye. And the old saying that referees could call a penalty on every single play if they looked hard enough is probably true. "You don't want to kill the game by calling all sorts of penalties," McAddley said. "If the ball is run to the left and you're blocking someone on the right and there's holding, it's not going to affect the play. So why would you call it? I understand holding if it springs somebody. You should call that. But if I'm way on the other side of the field, that flag is wrong."

"I know that every time I block somebody I'm holding him," Jones said. "But I've got him inside (his shoulder pads), which is okay. It's just part of the game."

And regarding pass interference—the bane of defensive backs everywhere—Milons provides an interesting (though admittedly biased) perspective. "To me pass interference is simple. If you touch me on the field, that's pass interference. You've got to understand there are over a million people watching you. Multiple guys are coming at you trying to take your head off. Your fans and teammates are depending on you to catch the ball. (Andrew) Zow's blazing that ball in. And you're supposed to catch the ball with this guy touching you? Man, that's pass interference. People think it's easy to catch a football, but let somebody grab you. It makes it difficult."

Displaying veterans' guile, Bama's senior receivers believe in working the officials whenever possible. "You'd be surprised how it works," McAddley said. "You say, 'He's holding me, ref; he's holding.' You let the referee know and it's in his mind. Then on that next pass he might be looking at you, and if he sees that DB holding, he's going to throw the flag. You'd be surprised at some of the calls that you get. Now, you're not going to get the call if it's not holding, but if you've planted the seed and



Jason McAddley is one of Alabama's fastest receivers. He has shown an ability to make the difficult catch throughout his Crimson Tide career.
Barry Fikes Photo

the guy holds, you'll probably see the flag."

Added Milons, "I try to talk to the officials before the game. I'll ask him 'If my hand's inside, is this holding?' He'll say, 'No, that's not holding.' Then I say, 'Well, I don't want to see no yellow flags in the game.' If I can get a call, then I'm going to try and get as much as I can. I'll tell them, 'If he grabs me right here, that's pass inter-

ference, right? I've got my jersey tucked in. So if it's out, then he's holding.' It's all about trying to use my experience. I've been around, and hopefully I've built a rapport with the referees."

When it comes to talking on the football field, most of it takes place between receiver and de-

fensive back. And even relatively calm athletes like McAddley get in their share. "That's the game within the game," he said. "I remember early in the SEC Championship Game two years ago, we had gotten a first down and I was blocking a DB. I told him 'It's going to be like this ALL night.' We were just talking back and forth, but I knew that deep in the back of his head he's thinking, 'Dang, they're not going to give up.' He may not react right then, but in the back of his head he's going to remember what I said."

"I get my talking in during pre-game stretching," Milons said. "The fans are getting settled, and it's only us down there. And voices carry. I make eye contact with every defensive back on the opposing team. But during a game the best time to say something is right after you catch a ball on a DB either for a touchdown or a first down. Anything you say then is like a dagger to the heart of his confidence. When I catch several balls and then a touchdown, my work is done. I don't have to do anything except look at him and smile. All of his teammates will be consoling him and patting him on the butt. But, nah, it's over."

"It's a respect thing. Last year in the LSU game their safety came up to me and said, 'You're washed up.' I said, 'Man, what did you say?' And he said it again. I told him, 'You hold that thought.' After that I caught two balls on him, one for a touchdown. Then I looked at him and said, 'Can I have my props, please?' He came to me and said, 'My bad, dog. You've still got it.'"

More important than any individual redemption, after last season's terrible performance the entire Bama squad has something to prove. And the three veteran starters are determined to do whatever is necessary to keep their teammates focused on that task.

"This is our senior year and we want it to be the best," Jones said. "If somebody doesn't want to work, then they're not helping themselves or us. So yeah, I'll grab some face masks."

Added Milons, "That attitude is a cancer; that's what I call it: a cancer. The best way to get onto that type player is to put it in his hands. Let him know, 'Dog, you ain't hurting just us. We can find somebody to hustle—somebody that's going to do what the coach says.'"

McAddley said, "We don't need any bad apples. Like Coach Fran says, don't expect your teammates to do more than what you expect out of yourself. Don't put the weight on your teammates. Be a man about it and you take the responsibility. You step up to the plate and make the play."

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Newcomers May Play Major Roles

by Tyler Christian

New challenges this year after excellent 2000 record

Alabama Volleyball Coach Judy Green heads into her sixth season at The Capstone riding a wave of success not experienced by Crimson Tide volleyball in many years. Coming off a 22-8 record last season that included a program record 11-4 Southeastern Conference mark and the first ever SEC Western Division crown, Alabama is an up-and-coming program on the collegiate volleyball scene.

However, that was then and this is now. This season presents a challenge. The Tide team welcomes a class of seven newcomers and says goodbye to nine letterwinners, including three starters from a year ago (starting setter Allison Lange along with the powerful All-SEC hitting duo of Michelle Green and Monica Morales). Gone is a core group of leaders that helped bring the Tide to its new level of success. Gone are the proven offensive performers and SEC-tested squad members.

But, there are no long faces in the Bama camp. Unlike five years ago when Green and her staff welcomed a large freshman class to Tuscaloosa, this year's crop of Crimson Tiders brings a level of experience and athleticism not seen before in the Alabama program.

"We do have a new level of success to live up to," said Green. "I'm excited about this season. I think our returning players still have some things to accomplish, like getting to the NCAA Tournament, and our newcomers are determined to maintain and improve upon the level of play we reached last year. I think our success last year allowed us to get the type of players we needed to continue our climb.

"We don't want to defend anything, our mission this year is the same as every year, and that is to obtain the next SEC West title, the next SEC Tournament title, or the next NCAA Tournament invitation. We want to stay aggressive and committed to doing the things that have been our trademarks to this point."

Preparation for the 2001 season began during the off-season informal spring tournament circuit. The Tide's returning players, many of whom had played secondary roles in 2000, got the opportunity to showcase their skills in primary roles. Green used the

spring practice sessions to improve the fundamentals of the returning players while pushing them into expanding roles for the success of the program.

"I think the spring was a valuable time for us," said Green. "It was a huge key in the development of our team in the fact that every returning player had a chance to gain quality playing time and experience."

In looking towards the new season, Green is most excited about the depth and physical athleticism of this year's team. She knows there are going to be growing pains because of the youthfulness in the roster and she understands that there is an adjustment time needed for the players in fulfilling their newly defined roles.

"Our first goal will be to find a continuity and a cohesiveness with our team," Green added. "There is no doubt that this team is one of the most gifted I've had, but I hope we can come together quickly in fall workouts."

From the first day of practice in August, the Tide will be focused on what Green considers the two keys for success: ball control and blocking. "We must be able to control the ball off the serve and defensively," said Green. "I also believe that our blocking must continue to improve and become even more consistent. Offensively, I think we have a great mixture of hitters. We should have the ability to bang on the outside and also attack the angles from a variety of spots at the net. Our middles will need to shoulder a little more of our offensive production this fall."

Green is excited about her team, but she is also thrilled with the Tide's 2001 schedule. Alabama's slate features tournament trips to New Mexico State, Xavier and TCU and also includes 12 home matches featuring the program's first-ever Thanksgiving Tournament. In addition to the always competitive conference games, nine of Alabama's 17 non-conference foes posted winning records last year. Eight had 20 or more victories. For the second year, the Tide will play its home contests in the CAVE (Coleman Auxiliary Volleyball Extension) at the rear of Coleman Coliseum.

"Every year we've tried to upgrade our schedule," said Green. "I think this year's schedule is a good blend of teams that will challenge and prepare us for play in the SEC."

Alabama has two seniors on its 2001 roster. The duo of Jen Wagner and Lexee Marshall can best be described as "Survivors." Their class began with five

members three years ago and has dwindled to just two heading into their final season. In addition to hanging around until their final year, this duo has survived injuries and role changes.

"Jen and Lexee are both gritty, gutty, experienced leaders on the court," said Green. "One of their best attributes is the stability they bring to our ball-handling. Both are totally committed to the team and its success."

Wagner, who two years ago was one of the team's most consistent offensive performers, is looking to regain the strength and stamina that made her so effective. One of the team's best defensive back row players, she spent much of last season filling the team's defensive specialist role but is primed to return to front row action.

Marshall looks to return to action following off-season shoulder surgery. She missed all of the spring season but has rehabbed all summer and is ready to get back on the floor.

"I know Lexee is anxious to get back into the flow," said Green. "I'm looking forward to seeing her back because she does so many of the little things that make a team better."

The Tide's junior group has been an integral part of the Tide's back-to-back winning seasons. Shelly Adamcik and Emily Sebastian both return after starting as middle blockers last year. Bridget Studnicka, who shared the setting duties with departed starter Lange, moves into the fulltime starting role.

While all three have been contributors for Alabama the past two years, this season each one will have an expanded role with increased responsibilities.

Adamcik has been the squad's leading blocker the past two years and Green looks for her to continue that level of defense but also add a more consistent offensive presence in the middle. Sebastian is coming off her first season of considerable play but continues to improve and develop into an effective middle blocker.

"Shelly and Emily should both have some confidence following last season and the spring," said Green. "Both have worked very hard on their footwork and I look for both to increase their role in our offensive plans. We need a consistent contribution from the middle this year in order to be as successful as we want to be."

Studnicka has shown signs of her skills the past two years. A tall setter at 5-11, she allows the Tide to present a big block at the net at all times. She is also an extremely offensive minded setter.

"Bridget's play will go a long way in deter-

mining what type of season we are going to have," Green said. "She has the type of personality that we need at the setter position. She is extremely determined and I know she is prepared to run our offense. Our main desire for her this season is to just make consistently good decisions and sets."

The role of the Tide's sophomore duo of Erin Price and Jennifer Bibber is simple: they solidify the offensive attack and defensive blocking plans. Price, one of the top freshman hitters in the SEC last year, provided the mid-season spark that put the Tide over the top, while Bibber is one of the strongest and highest hitters on the UA roster.

"Jennifer may be one of the best kept secrets in the SEC because we didn't have to play her much last year," Green said. "She hits a very heavy ball and as she increases her stamina and develops some finesse shots she will be an offensive force."

Price, who also competes in the high jump for the Alabama track and field team, moved into the starting opposite side hitter role last year and flourished thanks to her strong blocking and offensive skills. She was also a solid back-row defender.

"Erin is an elite level athlete," added Green. "During the spring her confidence kept growing and growing. The experience she gained last season combined with her competitive nature and athleticism will be a huge asset for us this year."

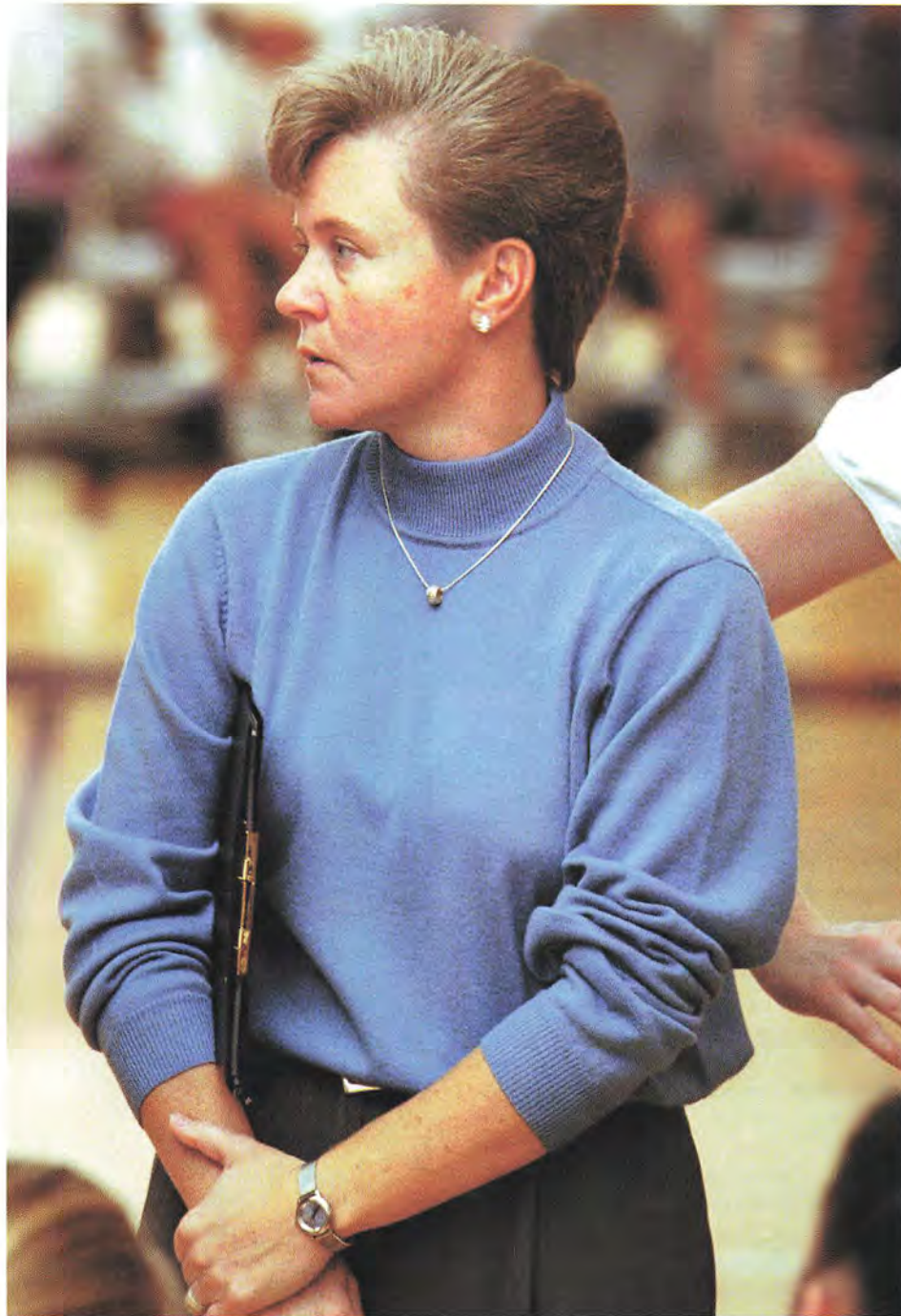
The wild card in Alabama volleyball fortunes is its freshman class. Bama welcomes a crop of seven newcomers. They bring a wealth of prep and national club experience.

"This is the most athletic class I've had at Alabama," said Green. "They bring great size and experience. They are a great blend of skill and athleticism. All of them are intense competitors and that is the greatest benefit they bring to our program."

Erin Heffner and Kenna Milner look to be the two incoming players who will have the most immediate impact. Heffner is an all-around player with the knack for scoring on the outside while Milner brings the skills of a top setter paired with passing ability of a defensive specialist.

"I think both these players will challenge for playing time immediately," said Green. "Erin is extremely strong and needs only to improve her consistency in ball-handling. Kenna is unbelievably competitive. She gives us more speed at the setter position but if she's not playing there I believe that she would be a huge asset to us as a primary passer."

Jennifer Cusimano, a middle blocker from Holy Spirit High School in Tuscaloosa, is the first local signee for Green. A gifted athlete,



Head Volleyball Coach Judy Green had great success in 2000, but has some rebuilding to do this season. That rebuilding job is made easier with good talent. University of Alabama Photo

Cusimano looks to bring a different look in the middle for the Tide.

"Jennifer will bring a new level of speed to our middle attack," Green said.

Outside hitting prospect Kory Tull is another player who possesses a wealth of all-around talent while middle blocker Julie Farley will provide the Tide with another strong blocker.

"Kory is a very solid, consistent player," said Green. "Julie is a raw volleyball talent. We plan to redshirt her this season but she will definitely be a plus for our program."

In addition to these five signees, a pair of defensive specialists will walk on. Kelly Counts and Courtney Sypult will look to help provide depth and stability for the Tide's back row.

Staley Has Reasons For Optimism

by John Hayden

A mix of veterans and newcomers should help get Bama back among the top teams

By the end of the 1998 soccer season it appeared Alabama was building towards national prominence. Then came a rash of injuries that the Crimson Tide has not been able to overcome in the past two seasons. But after suffering through two straight losing campaigns, Alabama Head Soccer Coach Don Staley is seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

"In 1999, we were plagued with injuries and a lack of depth really hurt us," said Staley. "Last season we were never able to get that one lucky bounce or that one cheap goal that you need every now and then to turn things around."

However, during the past off-season, Staley filled the gaps he felt needed filling and addressed the areas he felt needed improvement.

"The position of goalkeeper and not producing enough goals were the two main points of emphasis," said Staley. "But we feel like we with the addition of some top goalkeepers, along with the maturity of last year's freshman group and this year's incoming freshmen, Alabama soccer will be back to the level of success we enjoyed as recently as three years ago."

The Crimson Tide received a belated Christmas gift when junior goalie Courtney Rogers transferred to The Capstone in January from Lees-McRae College in North Carolina, where she was a two-time All-Carolina Virginia Athletic Conference honorable mention.

"We're excited about Courtney transferring here," said Staley. "She was a highly regarded goalie from the Sting soccer club in Dallas, Texas. However, she blew out her knee in high school and that scared a lot of schools away from recruiting her."

As far as scoring, Staley feels that with a year of experience under their belts, sophomores Dawn Nash and Katie Holtzapfel will help cure the Tide's offensive ills. Alabama will also sport a new look putting defensive stalwart Dawn Battle at forward to take advantage of her speed and power.



Alabama Head Soccer Coach Don Staley has enjoyed great success as head coach of the Crimson Tide, but the last two Bama squads have not been up to expectations. University of Alabama Photo

Staley said that the team's improved fitness level will also prove an advantage heading into the season. "In terms of fitness, attitude and dedication, the team stepped it up a notch during the spring season," said Staley. "We were more well-rounded this spring and we went through one of the most grueling strength and conditioning programs I've seen in years and it will pay dividends. We learned that we had to be stronger and fitter both physically and mentally."

Heading into the 2001 season, Staley and his staff will not have to worry about depth problems. He will have 30 players, which he says, will make for more competitive practices and help the team overcome the loss of players to injury.

The Tide returns seven starters including All-SEC defender and team defensive MVP Missy Keller, team MVP Ellen Sanders, and Holtzapfel, who was the offensive team MVP. Throw Rogers into the mix at goalie where she was able to work out with the team during the spring season and Staley has a lot to look forward to this season.

"With the mix of veterans returning and the newcomers, we won't have a problem finding 10 players who will be able to play together in the same system," said Staley. "They've showed the coaching staff a higher level of commitment and maturity and with some cohesion, I feel we'll have the right ingredients for success."

The Crimson Tide will certainly not be lacking for experience this fall as the team returns 16 letter-winners from last year's squad.

Among the starters are Battle, who Staley calls a "gamer." The coach said, "Dawn comes to every game ready to play." Playing Battle at forward instead of her traditional defender position will give the Tide another option up front with creativity and speed.

Nash, who also made an impact on the offensive end last season, totaling eight points on three goals and two assists, will be joining Battle up top. Nash can finish on a breakaway but also has the strength to compete with opponents in a physical match.

Sophomore Elizabeth Jannik will provide more offensive power for the Tide at the forward position. Jannik, who recorded six points on three goals last season, is more of a quiet threat for Bama. She tends to be at the right place at the right time and coupled with her technical skills and ability to finish, Staley expects big things from her.

Rounding out the Tide's returning offen-

sive attack up front is sophomore Melissa Montgomery. Montgomery's touch on the ball and size in the air will benefit Alabama on restarts, whether she will be serving the ball or attacking in the air.

At the midfield position, Alabama will be returning Holtzapfel who was voted team co-offensive MVP last season after netting a team high five goals including two game-winners. Holtzapfel, will bring a great deal of composure to the center of the field while possessing great vision.

Holtzapfel will be joined by her Cincinnati Cardinal club teammate Lauren Imwalle. Imwalle will be alternating between midfield and defender, but her on-field composure along with her ability to distribute the ball down the field will help the Tide in transition situations.

Providing senior leadership at the midfield position are Sanders and fellow senior Kathleen Motheral. Armed with a throw-in of close to 40 yards—the equivalent of a corner kick—, Sanders gives Bama another offensive weapon. Sanders also provides a very young team with much needed leadership and an impeccable work ethic.

Motheral's leadership coupled with her composure and understanding of the game makes her a threat anywhere on the field. She will also provide Alabama with creativity at the position in an effort to feed the ball to the front-runners.

Junior Kim Zarzour will also alternate between defender and midfield and will help the Tide with her aggressive play. She is one of the best tacklers on the team.

Sophomores Rebecca Baker and Kristin McRee provide more depth for Staley at midfield. Both possess great speed and strong work ethics.

Alabama's defensive corps has long been the program's trademark. This year will be no different as Keller returns for her junior season after putting out an All-SEC season last year.

Joining Keller in the back is senior Danielle Watson. Watson, who has spent the majority of her career at forward, possesses great one-on-one ability. She is a dangerous threat on restarts and is versatile enough to help the Tide pressure on the offensive end while getting back in time to help out the defense.

Sophomore Caroline Bolz, will also be anchored along the back line. She will provide much needed depth, which will prove key in the Tide's aggressive style of play.

Junior Michele Evans, will be coming off a season in which she was hampered by, first a broken nose, then sidelined with a broken leg.

Between the pipes is where the team will have a different look. Staley is anxious for Bama to regain its nickname of "Goalkeeper U." The Crimson Tide lost the team's two main goalkeepers to graduation. Staley will take a good look at Rogers and sophomore returnee Lauren Bowen.

Bowen's work ethic and attitude will go a long way in the Tide's four-way battle for starting goalkeeper, as she competes with Rogers and two freshmen. In addition to Rogers, new faces in the goalkeeper competition will be Brandee Garrison and Laura Lowman.

Rogers has the advantage over the freshmen. In addition to transferring to The Capstone in time to participate in the spring season, she has two years of quality college experience behind her.

Lowman possesses great size (6-0) and excellent reflexes, while Garrison is an extremely active keeper.

However, the new class of recruits includes much more.

Helping to protect the goalies is defender Jiselle Decker. Decker is a very vocal player and field leader.

Katie French has the potential to be the goal-scorer Alabama was looking for last season. She has creativity and play-making skills.

Courtney McCotter will be a midfield/forward type player. Her versatility and speed will help the Tide on the offensive attack as she has an excellent service. She also has an ability to get open.

In Katie Nirider, Staley sees another dominant goal scorer with size. "She doesn't waste energy," he said. "She's a very confident 'North-South' type player who has a purpose in every move she makes."

Taylor Rich plays a very smooth game and is tactically aware of what is going on around her. Her understanding of the game allows her to read the play and flow of the game.

"I'm excited about the challenge," said Staley. "With the mix of veterans and rookies, I think we have something special here. We're all excited about getting the program back to where it was and back to the level of success that comes with being at The University of Alabama."

Bama Has Star Performers

by Andrew Varble II

Men should again be among best in nation; women are rebuilding with a new coach

Though they will travel much the same road this coming season, attending most of the same meets, Alabama's men's and women's cross country teams are at somewhat different spots on their journeys to success.

Bolstered by a new coach and a new superstar, Alabama's men shone last year and are expected to be on the way to even better things in 2001. The women, hampered by injuries and illness last season, return for the 2001 season with a new coach and outlook.

The men's team, with the advent of Coach Joe Walker and superstar David Kimani before last season, became one of the South's

best teams in 2000, finishing second at the Southeastern Conference Championships and first at the NCAA South Region Championships. The Tide finished 28th at the NCAA Championships.

Kimani, a legitimate threat to win any distance race he enters, transferred to Alabama from South Alabama for the 2000 season. The Kenyan was the defending NCAA cross country champion, and made the expected impact on the Tide in 2000. An off-season injury kept the lanky Kimani from racing through out the regular season, but he won his first race, the SEC championship, going away. It marked the first time a member of

the Crimson Tide had won the title since German Beltran in 1988. Kimani went on to win the NCAA South Region title and finish fourth at the NCAA Championships.

Kimani also spurred his teammates to new heights. Chris Mutai, a senior last year, led the Tide during the regular season while Kimani was relegated to training and rehabilitation. Mutai along with Japeth Koech earned All-SEC and All-South Region.

With Kimani returning for his junior year and Koech back for his senior season, the obvious problem is finding a replacement for Mutai. Walker thinks he has the answer with freshman Peter Kiprono of Kenya.

"I think Peter is going to be a surprise to a lot of people," Walker said. "His times are pretty comparable to David's (Kimani). If he can come over and make a fairly easy transition, then he could have an immediate impact."

In addition to making the transition from high school to college and to living in the United States, Kiprono will have to deal with the difference in altitudes between Alabama and his native land.

With Kimani, Kiprono and Koech holding the top-three spots, senior Troy Henderson should fill the number four position. Henderson ran steadily at both the four and five slots last season and has had a good summer of training leading into his final Tide season. Alabama has also added Todd Fayant, a junior college transfer from Spokane (Washington) Community College, and Kevin McDonough, an Auburn High School graduate who was runner-up in Alabama state cross country championships last season.

"Todd was Spokane's top runner, and he should be comparable to Troy in ability," Walker said. "Kevin was one of the top distance guys in the state last year. I look for both of them to help us out."

On the women's side, Alabama Head Track and Field Coach Sandy Fowler welcomes new Distance Coach Steve Keith to her staff.

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David Kimani

Keith comes to Alabama after a seven-year stint at Texas-El Paso. He coached two NCAA champions at UTEP, including last season's 800-meter champ, Svetlana Badrunkova. He also coached 22 All-America performers and 35 conference champions while with the Miners. Keith is no stranger to the Southeast, having coached in the Atlanta area from 1983-94, with stops at Emory University, Georgia Tech, and the club program NIKE South.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity," Keith said. "I look forward to continuing the trend of success that Coach (Sandy) Fowler has begun here. I believe we have the chance at Alabama to bring the cross country program up to a point where we can take a team to the NCAA Championships. Our goal is to not give anything up to any other team in the conference."

The Tide returns five athletes from last year's squad that finished fifth at the conference championships, including its top-two from the 2000 squad, Ashley LaBudde and Aly Mills. LaBudde earned All-SEC, All-South Region and a third consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships during her junior campaign. Mills was having the best season of her career, earning All-SEC honors and finishing a team high fourth at the SEC Championships, but illness at the NCAA South Region Championships sapped her chance at an NCAA berth.

There is a chance that Keith will redshirt LaBudde this season. The Georgia native would then have a full season of eligibility, cross country, indoor and outdoor track, in 2002-03.



Ashley LaBudde

Also returning to the Tide for 2001 will be Katie Braune, Virnetta Greene, Katie Kelly and Kara Nowak. Alabama has also added Tricia Bohan, Beith Cousins, Alison Nesbitt and Ashley Roberts to its roster, giving it a larger core of athletes going into the season, a measure which should help the Tide ward off the illness/injury caused shortages of last season.

"I'm going to spend a lot of time on the recruiting trail this year trying to bolster our numbers both in cross country and on the track," Keith said. "I look forward to the opportunity to sell Alabama, the school and the program, to top athletes throughout the Southeast and the nation. This is a great place to compete, there are no limits to Alabama's potential."

For both the men and the women, the weather might be a positive factor for the Crimson Tide this season. Last season, the Tide dealt with the heat of the Alabama fall well enough, with four meets coming within the confines of the state, but the NCAA Championships were held in Ames, Iowa, where the weather dipped into the teens the weekend of the meet. The weather sapped Kimani of his usual finishing kick, which was the difference in him adding a second NCAA Cross Country title to his resume.

This year, both the men and women barely leave the state and the NCAA Championships will be in Greenville, South Carolina. In addition to two trips to South Carolina, The Tide will compete in five Alabama-based meets, including its home meet, the Crimson Classic on September 15 at Harry Pritchett Golf Course in Tuscaloosa.



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Bama Is Off To A Good Start

by James Edwards

Eight prep football stars make early commitments to sign with the Crimson Tide

Although summertime allows some time for relaxation for a college football coach, there is no such thing as completely getting away from it all. One of the most important duties of a college football coach in the summer is working camps for young players. Although most of those attending a football camp just want to improve their skills to be better high school players, a number of potential prospects also take advantage of both college coaching and the opportunity to show their natural attributes—size, speed, strength and skills. And it's also a chance for the coach to make an impression on the player.

Early indications are that Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione and his staff made very good impressions with some of the state's top high school football prospects at this summer's Crimson Tide Football Camp.

The camp was held on Friday the 13th of July, but it wasn't unlucky. Tide coaches worked with some 175 upcoming senior and junior players. While many were from Alabama, the camp also hosted players from Mississippi, California, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, and New Jersey, an indication Franchione intends to follow through on his pledge to recruit nationally.

Although Signing Day is not until February 6, 2002, there is a trend for many top players to make their decisions early, enabling them to concentrate on academics and their senior high school seasons without the distraction of recruiting. Prior to the camp, the Tide had official commitments from Chris Harris and Kenneth Darby. Within days of the completion of the camp, that number had swelled to six. Picking the Tide were Ramzee Robinson, Juwan Garth, Kyle Tatum, and Brandon Avalos. Then in subsequent days it was learned that two more players—Christopher Browder and Grant Dickey had committed to Alabama. Although there was much analysis of why Coach Fran and his staff were getting such a jump on commitments, the simple answer is that it's Franchione's style. At this time last year he had eight commitments at TCU.

Here are profiles of the players who have publicly committed to Alabama this summer. This information is compiled from *Pigskin Preps*, Citadel



Brandon Avalos

Partners (www.bamamag.com), and Tom Lemming's *Prep Report*.

Brandon Avalos, 6-1, 176, 4.55-second 40-yard dash time, is a quarterback from Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa. He is considered to be the state's number one quarterback prospect. Avalos is known for his scrambling technique, his ability to throw every pass with zip, his competitiveness, and his knowledge of the game. He started his career as a sophomore wide receiver where he snagged 49 passes for over 700 yards and five touchdowns while becoming the school's first Class 6A all-state player. He moved to quarterback as a junior and accumulated over 1,500 yards of total offense with 14 touchdowns. He was selected to the All-West Alabama Team. He is a standout baseball player (centerfield) who also had a baseball scholarship offer from Alabama. He batted .400 with three home runs as his team's leadoff hitter. He camped at Alabama, Nebraska, and Purdue. He bench presses 275, power cleans 230, squats 405, and deadlifts 355. He has a 33-4 vertical jump. He carries a 3.1 grade point average (GPA), and scored 19 on the ACT. He chose Bama over Nebraska, Purdue, Virginia Tech, Southern Miss, Clemson, and Georgia Tech.

Christopher Browder, 6-4, 215, 4.79, is a defensive end/linebacker at Wilcox Central in Camden. Though he still has some growing to do, Browder is regarded as an outstanding defensive end prospect. Not just a good athlete, Browder is an excellent football player, willing and able to chase down quarterbacks and deliver a blow when he arrives. Given Alabama's current depth at defensive end, Browder will likely spend his first college season as a redshirt, working to get stronger in the weight room.

Kenneth Darby is a 5-11, 188, 4.47 runningback from Butler High School in Huntsville. He is a four-year starter who has made all-city three consecutive years, and honorable mention all-state as a junior. He rushed for over 1,200 yards as a junior with 11 touchdowns. He also snagged 800 yards in pass receptions, one for a touchdown. He had 2,125 yards of total offense as a junior. For his career he has 3,083 yards rushing. He is also a starting linebacker who has been credited with 204 tackles over his career. He benches 315 and squats 420. He has a 2.7 GPA and made 16 on the ACT. He has attended the Vanderbilt Team camp, Middle Tennessee, and Alabama camps. He is a cousin of Shawn Draper, who played at Alabama and is now a Miami Dolphin. He committed to Alabama over Ole Miss, Mississippi State, LSU, Auburn, and Michigan State.

Grant Dickey, 6-5, 305, 5.28, is an offensive lineman at Tyler, Texas. Described by Texas sources as a powerful, bruising run blocker, Dickey was somewhat overlooked by the homestate Texas Longhorns and Texas A&M Aggies because of minor (cartilage) problems in his knee suffered last spring. Surgery has corrected that tear, and Dickey is excited about playing football for a national program like Alabama. Good footwork will allow him to play several positions on the O-Line.

Juwan Garth is a 6-2, 190, 4.6 all-around athlete from Austin High School in Decatur. A polished athlete who runs smooth and seems to cover a ton of yardage with his long strides. He plays wide receiver on offense and he grabbed 13 passes for 378 yards and four touchdowns last year. However, he is projected as a college linebacker, or, perhaps, rover or strong safety. Last year he had 83 tackles, three sacks, four caused fumbles, two fumble recoveries, and an interception. He attended Alabama



Chris Harris



Kyle Tatum

and Auburn camps. He has good strength, a 3.3 GPA, and a 20 ACT.

Chris Harris is a 6-6, 230, 4.65 defensive end from Central High School in Tuscaloosa. He posted 80 tackles and 16 sacks as a junior. He benches 290 and power cleans 260. He has a 3.3 GPA. His cousin, Anthony Harris, played at Southern Miss. He committed to Alabama over LSU, Auburn, and Georgia Tech.

Ramzee Robinson is a 5-10, 175, 4.5 cornerback prospect from Butler High School in Huntsville. An athletic quarterback who led his team to the second round of the state playoffs as a junior, he passed for 1,612 yards and 15 touchdowns, while rushing for 504 yards and four touchdowns. His value to the team as quarterback has limited his time at cornerback as a sophomore and junior, but as a freshman he was considered the best on his team. He also camped at Middle Tennessee.

Kyle Tatum is a 6-6, 260, 4.8 defensive end from Prattville High School. He is the pre-season number one player in Alabama. He is highly ranked by every national recruiting service and his camp performances have enhanced his standing. He played defensive tackle as a junior and had to fight against double and triple teams. He posted 75 tackles, 10 sacks, 15 tackles for loss, and two fumble recoveries (one returned for a touchdown) as a junior. He was honorable mention all-state. He will move to defensive end as a senior and may also see some duty at tight end. His brother, Keith, played tight end at Tennessee-Chattanooga. He has camped at Ole Miss, Alabama, LSU, and UAB. He benches 315, squats 460, and power cleans 315. He vertical jumps 29 inches. He has a 3.8 GPA and a 19 ACT. He committed to Alabama over Auburn, Florida, LSU, Notre Dame, Stanford, South Carolina, Baylor, Georgia Tech, Clemson, and Memphis.

All of those players except Browder and Dickey were among the campers in Tuscaloosa this summer. Here in alphabetical order are some of the other senior prospects spotted in the Alabama summer camp:

Defensive back Jason Allen, Muscle Shoals; quarterback Stephen Allison, Stevenson North Jackson; quarterback Chris Barger, Hayden, Kentucky, Leslie County; linebacker Ryan Brick, Prattville; wide receiver Grant Brigham, Birmingham Mountain Brook; offensive lineman Rance Brooks, West Blocton; running back Dan Burks, Birmingham Vestavia Hills; athlete Patrick Byrne, Brewton T.R. Miller; athlete Ronnie Elliott, Huntsville Lee; quarterback Mark Guillion, Orinda, California, Miranonte; linebacker Kwon Howard, Marrero, Louisiana, John Ehret; offensive lineman Ed Hutt, Tuscaloosa Central; safety U.T. Ingram, Opelika; tight end Lawrence Lilly, Montevallo; offensive lineman Blake Luker, Collinwood, Tennessee; quarterback Chris Malleo, Wall, New Jersey;

Running back Chauncey Malone, Trinity West Morgan; quarterback Grame McFarland, Birmingham Mountain Brook; offensive lineman Zeb McHargue, Gray, Georgia, Jones County; offensive lineman Jeremy Meade, Alexander City Benjamin Russell; wide receiver Ben Obomanu, Selma; athlete Titus Ryan, Northport Tuscaloosa County; defensive tackle Henry Smith, Aliceville; wide receiver Frank Taylor, Moulton Lawrence County; athlete Corey Thompson, Coffee of Florence; offensive lineman Zach Tubbs, Cullman; and defensive lineman Thaddeus Washington of Marrero, Louisiana, John Ehret.

Among upcoming juniors seen at the camp were wide receiver Chad Jackson, Birmingham Hoover, and wide receiver William Roach, Killen Brooks.



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Some Unexpected Good News

by J.E. Lisby

Two Tide stars eschew pros for senior seasons

With Major League Baseball raiding the available talent pool each spring, college coaches around the country hold their collective breaths during the draft. It can be a crippling paradox: assemble an impressive recruiting class, only to lose most to lucrative signing bonuses. And a team's settled roster isn't exempt, either, as present rules make athletes eligible for the draft following their third year in school.

It's a rule that often robs teams of their senior leadership. After Tide Head Coach Jim Wells saw both all-star catcher Jeremy Brown and staff ace Lance Cormier selected, he made contingency plans. "We had gone out and signed guys to replace them," Wells said.

But after evaluating their draft position and considering all the options, both Brown and Cormier will return for the senior seasons at Alabama.

"There is a lot of unfinished business here," Cormier said. "I still want to get a lot of things done. I want to go back to Omaha (for the College World Series). Mainly, I don't want to leave after last year. Not making the conference tournament was embarrassing. I know the team we've got coming back is a good team, so I'm looking forward to playing again with them."

Junior left-hander Mark Carter signing with the Chicago Cubs makes him the only player from last year's team eligible to return who will not be back.

For a squad hoping to rebound from a disappointing season, the decisions of Brown and Cormier to return were as welcome as they were unexpected. "We're excited about that, though I never would have imagined it," Wells said. "It just worked out for us. All the stars aligned with the planets. We haven't been in this position too much in recent years, and it should mean a great deal."

Along with centerfielder Scott McClanahan and infielder Brent Boyd, Cormier and Brown will form a core group of talented seniors to lead the squad.

"It's really encouraging to have guys that have had a lot of SEC bats or SEC starts," Wells said. "Even if you're bringing in an All-America high school player, there's no substitute for experience. It's going to give us some depth and some good competition. Those four guys coming back is something that happens about once every ten years. And we hope it pays off for the team."

After becoming an NCAA tournament fixture in recent seasons, Alabama slipped last year to

a 32-23 record. It was its 15-15 mark in SEC play that eliminated the Tide from post-season competition. "Maybe we missed a key hit when the bases were loaded as compared to a hit with nobody on," Wells said. "Our numbers weren't terribly bad. In fact, they were better than some years we've won championships. But there's something to knowing how to win and learning how to win. And I would hope that the guys who are coming back for their fourth year know what that is—not just do it themselves, but show the others how to do it."

It's that experience that could be the key to the turnaround season the players are determined to deliver. "I really think our chances are looking good," Cormier said. "We have guys back who have started for three years. When you've got a senior who has been starting for his whole career, that's got to be good. Plus, we've got a lot of new guys coming in. You know that Brown, Boyd and McClanahan are going to hit. They're going to be stars. We just need young guys to step up and become as good as (those three) were when they were freshmen."

When judged by the numbers, last year's squad wasn't all that bad. But key lapses in key areas—especially late inning relief—meant that Alabama fell short. "If you look at our pitching numbers last season, they were good," Wells said. "And we hit fairly well for the SEC. But those stats don't show what may have happened in the eighth or ninth inning when we needed a closer. The stats don't show when the hits came."

During the off-season Wells went out and signed several hurlers to shore up his pitching staff, while also adding several position players with good speed. Both were areas where he judged last season's team to be lacking. "You've got to be going on all cylinders, especially on the weekends," Wells said. "But I just have a feeling that with those kids who have made a commitment to come back, we have a chance to have a good club this year. It would have been so easy for some of them to leave."

After switching to catcher to begin his junior year, Brown turned in a stellar season in which his fielding was literally perfect, committing no errors behind the plate. But a freak injury (Brown severely lacerated his thumb when he caught it on his catcher's mask while making a throw to second) ended his season prematurely. It was a scary injury. "Jeremy is doing fine," Wells said. "His thumb has healed up. He's been playing first base and catching a little bit, and he's hitting the ball real well. It's great to be 21 years old and heal so quickly."

In addition to Brown, McClanahan and Boyd, Peter Stonard (So., RF, .320), Kavonski Chatman (Sr., DH, .221), Beau Hearod (Jr., 3B, .295), Adam Pavkovich (So., Inf, .259) and Grant Redding (Jr., LF, .250) return as potential starters. Cormier (9-5), whose 2.30 earned run average led the SEC, is expected to be the ace of the pitching staff. Landon Brazell (11 appearances, 1-1, 3.72), B.J. Green (12 appearances, 5-1, 4.13), Shane Sanders (15 appearances,

3-2, 4.22), Kavonski Chatman (15 appearances, 1-1, 4.55) and Jared Woodward (25 appearances, 3-3, 5.17) are also back for Alabama.

In addition to senior first baseman Aaron Clark and Carter from last year's squad signing contracts, the draft hit Alabama hard in its signees with five electing to by-pass Bama for the professional game.

Lost were Dusty Brown, a power-hitting catcher from Yavapai Community College to Boston; Jeff Balser, a right-handed relief pitcher from Polk Community College, to Anaheim; Jonathan Van Every, a power-hitting outfielder from Itawamba Community College, to Cleveland; and Eric West of Southside of Gadsden, Mr. Baseball by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, elected to take fifth round signing money from Boston.

Pitcher Josh Baker of Houston, a right-hander, is a signee who is one to worry about. He was drafted in the fourth round by the Texas Rangers, but thus far has not signed and has indicated he intends to attend Alabama.

(Tide football signee Bryan Bass was the 31st overall pick of the draft, selected a supplemental first-round pick by the Baltimore Orioles. Bass began his prep career at Fayette County High School, but spent his senior season at Seminole High School in Florida.)

During the spring signing period, Alabama added Meridian Community College outfielder Travis Garner and Seminole State College catcher Jeremy Rogers.

Garner (5-11, 185, Sturgis, Mississippi) was a two-year starter at Meridian, earning Mississippi-Louisiana All-Conference honors in 2000 and 2001. He was also named to the 2000 All-Region 23 squad, leading MCC to the 46-19 record and a third-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series. Meridian also captured the Region 23 Championship and Southeastern District Championship en route to its berth in the NJCAA World Series.

During his two-year career, Garner played in 114 games and compiled a .386 (145-for-376) batting average with nine home runs and 63 RBI. He had 141 runs, 24 doubles, seven triples, 66 walks and 64 stolen bases (78 attempts, 821).

As a freshman, Garner led the team with a .397 (77-for-194) average with four home runs and 33 RBI. He also led the club in games played (65), runs scored (81), hits (71), walks (39) and stolen bases (41-for-46). He had six outfield assists.

Last season, Garner batted .374 (68-for-182) with five home runs and 30 RBI. For the second year in a row he led the team in at-bats (182), runs scored (60), and stolen bases (23-for-32).

Prior to attending MCC, Garner led Starkville (Miss.) Academy to three consecutive North State Championships (1997-99).

Rogers (5-11, 190, Morris, Oklahoma) was a

two-year starter for coach Lloyd Simmons, who retired after the 2001 season.

In his two-year career at Seminole, Rogers batted .268 with 23 home runs and 76 RBI. As a sophomore, Rogers batted .284 (55-for-194) with 13 home runs and 44 RBI. He also added 49 runs scored, 10 doubles, one triple and 28 walks.

Prior to attending Seminole State, Rogers was a three-year letterman at Morris High School, where he set school records for single-season home runs (13) and 102 career RBI. An all-state selection in 1999, Rogers led his team to three district titles and one regional championship.

Following the season, several Tide players were recognized for individual honors. Jeremy Brown was a finalist for the Johnny Bench Award, symbolizing the top collegiate catcher. Brown was also first-team All-SEC, third-team *Collegiate Baseball* All-America, fourth in the SEC in batting average and first at his position in fielding percentage.

First baseman Aaron Clark also earned first-team All-SEC designation. The Tide slugger, who was second in the conference in slugging percentage, total bases and RBIs, was also invited to participate in the Home-Run Derby during the Collegiate World Series. Clark led the SEC in fielding percentage for first basemen and was named second-team All-America by both *Baseball Weekly* and *Rawlings*, while making *Collegiate Baseball's* third-team list.

Cormier, McClanahan and Boyd all finished second-team All-SEC, with Cormier being additionally honored as an Academic All-America.

A part from the baseball roster, Alabama did sustain one significant loss from last year's squad. Long-time Wells assistant Mitch Gaspard has left the Tide staff to take over as head coach at Northwestern State University in Louisiana.

"It is all positive when you have assistants leave to become head coaches," Wells said. "But there is an adjustment. And that's what I'm going through right now. Mitch was with me nine years. I never had an assistant coach until I got him. So he'll be missed. He was such a good recruiter, good with the kids, and knew what I wanted. I didn't have to talk much about that. I'm happy for Mitch. Everybody wants to be a head coach, and now he's got his opportunity. And I know he'll do very well."

Taken with last season's loss of Todd Butler, who had coached with Wells for five years before leaving Alabama to become head coach at McNeese State, Gaspard's departure has forced Wells to rework his entire staff. "I do have help," Wells said. "Jim Gatewood (the assistant coach who replaced Butler) does a lot and Chris Moeller (volunteer coach) does so much, so it's not like I'm totally alone. But there is also a period where I have to get to know the new guy. He has to know what I need and want. It's an adjustment period, but it's also a time for new life, new blood and new opportunities for the new guy coming in."

Wells expects to have Gaspard's replacement hired and on campus by early August.

2001 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 1	UCLA	Tuscaloosa	Tied, 1-1
Sept. 8	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Alabama leads, 56-19-4
Sept. 15	Southern Miss	Birmingham	Alabama leads, 29-6-2
Sept. 22	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 7-4-0
Sept. 29	South Carolina	Columbia	Alabama leads, 10-0-0
Oct. 6	Texas-El Paso	Birmingham	First Meeting
Oct. 13	Mississippi	Oxford	Alabama leads, 39-7-2
Oct. 20	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-34-7
Nov. 3	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-17-5
Nov. 10	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 67-15-3
Nov. 17	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama leads, 37-27-1
Southeastern Conference Championship Game			
Dec. 1	TBA	Atlanta	Alabama has 2-3 record

Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Time*
Aug. 31-	New Mexico State Classic @ Las Cruces, N.M.	TBA
Sept. 1	(New Mexico State, Nicholls State, Pittsburgh)	
Sept. 7-	Xavier Invitational @ Cincinnati	TBA
Sept. 9	(Xavier, Liberty, Fairfield)	
Sept. 11	Mercer	7:00
Sept. 14	TCU @ Fort Worth	7:00
Sept. 15	Arkansas-Little Rock @ Fort Worth	10:00
Sept. 15	Akron @ Fort Worth	5:00
Sept. 21	Ole Miss	7:00
Sept. 23	Mississippi State	2:00
Sept. 28	@ Arkansas	7:00
Sept. 30	@ LSU	2:00
Oct. 2	@ Southern Miss	7:00
Oct. 5	Georgia	7:00
Oct. 7	Florida	2:00
Oct. 12	@ Kentucky	6:00
Oct. 14	@ Tennessee	1:00
Oct. 16	UAB	7:00
Oct. 19	@ Auburn	7:00
Oct. 21	South Florida	2:00
Oct. 22	Auburn	7:00
Oct. 28	@ South Carolina	2:00
Oct. 30	@ Samford	7:00
Nov. 2	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Nov. 4	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Nov. 9	LSU	7:00
Nov. 11	Arkansas	2:00
Nov. 15-17		

SEC Championships @ Knoxville		
Nov. 23-	Turkey Classic	TBA
Nov. 24	(Wake Forest, Samford, Arkansas St, MTSU)	
Nov. 29-	NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds	
Dec. 2	@ Campus Sites	
Dec. 6-	NCAA Regionals	
Dec. 9	@ Campus Sites	
Dec. 13	NCAA Finals	
Dec. 15	@ San Diego, California	

*Times are Central

Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time*
Aug. 24	UAB (scrimmage)	7:00
Aug. 26	@ South Alabama (scrimmage)	2:00
Sept. 2	Tulane	1:00
Sept. 7	Wyoming	7:00
Sept. 9	@ U-T-Chattanooga	1:00
Sept. 14	@ Arkansas State	4:00
Sept. 16	Murray State	1:00
Sept. 21	@ Northern Arizona	8:00
Sept. 23	@ New Mexico	2:00
Sept. 28	Alabama A&M	7:00
Sept. 30	U-T-Martin	1:00
Oct. 5	Georgia	7:00
Oct. 7	Tennessee	1:00
Oct. 12	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Oct. 14	@ Mississippi State	1:00
Oct. 19	LSU	7:00
Oct. 21	Arkansas	1:00
Oct. 26	@ Kentucky	6:00
Oct. 28	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
Nov. 2	Auburn	7:00

Nov. 8-11		
SEC Championships @ Baton Rouge		
Nov. 14	NCAA First Rounds	
Nov. 17-18	NCAA Second Rounds	
Nov. 23-25	NCAA Third Rounds	
Nov. 30-	NCAA Quarterfinals	
Dec. 2	(All preliminary NCAA rounds @ college sites)	
Dec. 7-	NCAA College Cup	
Dec. 9	@ Dallas	

Cross Country

Date	Meet
Sept. 7	Tulane Invitational
Sept. 15	Crimson Classic
Sept. 29	Auburn Bank Invitational
Oct. 6	NCAA Pre-Regional @ Birmingham
Oct. 13	NCAA Pre-Meet @ Greenville, S.C.
Oct. 29	SEC Championships @ Auburn
Nov. 10	NCAA Regional @ Birmingham
Nov. 19	NCAA Championships @ Greenville, S.C.



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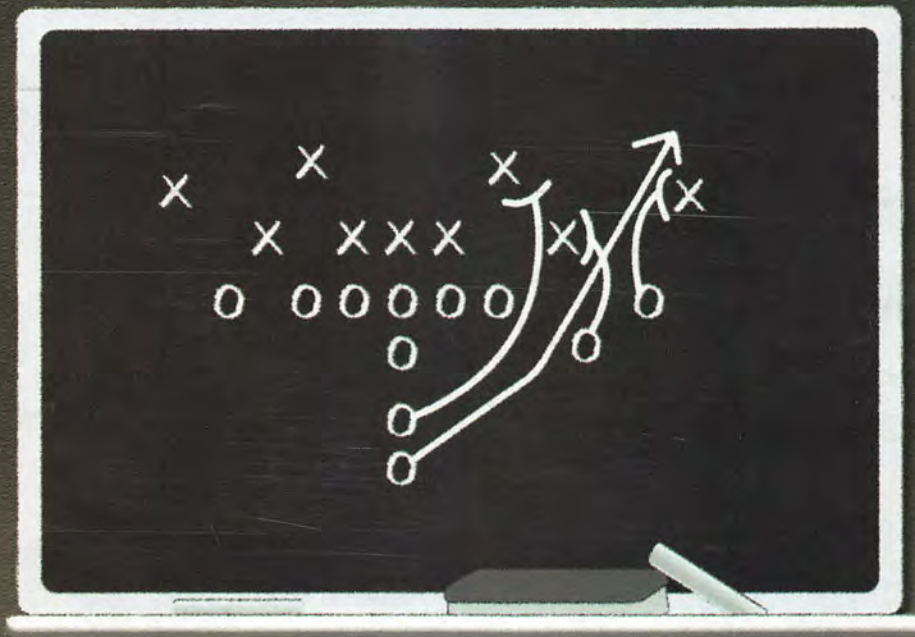
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